

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

03-026-00036 Worcester North V WOR.1035

NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 1 Congress Street

Historic Name: David L. & Margaret W. Morrill House

Uses: Present: Single-Family Residential

Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1865

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
none

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

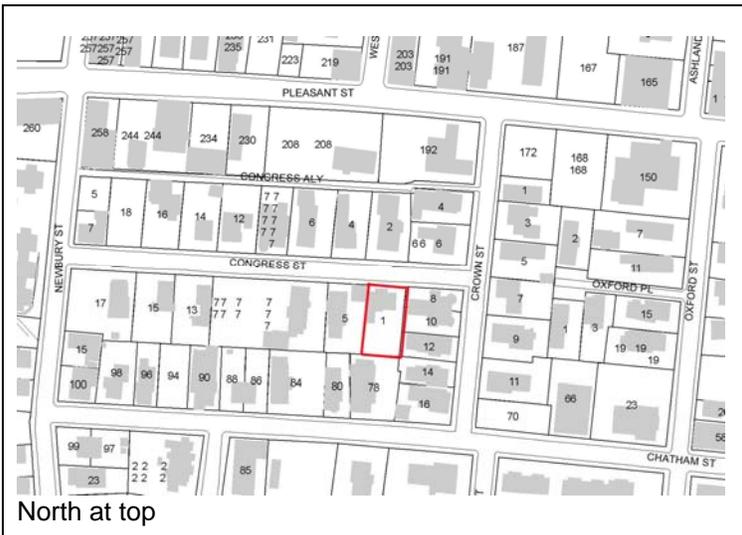
Acreage: 0.1544 acres

Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

1 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1035
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The David L. & Margaret W. Morrill House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with front gable roof. The house is situated on a 0.1544-acre lot on the south side of Congress Street west of Crown Street. It is elevated above the street at the top elevation of Crown Hill. With its front facing south towards what had been the park in the initial Park Hill plan, it has been surmised that the lot once extended to Crown Street; however, the existing Crown Street lots have equally early development histories. The north side of the house is sited close to the street, with a low granite slab retaining wall along the sidewalk; stone steps in the northeast corner of the lot lead to the main entrance. A large yard opens on the south side of the property.

The wood-clapboard dwelling is richly ornamented with Italianate details, such as pronounced quoin blocks, bold entablatures with bracketed cornices along roof eaves and multiple gables, and a piazza spanning the east (front) façade with its own elaborate entablatures. The townhouse plan is shifted to run parallel rather than perpendicular with the street. The three bay front (east) façade contains a entrance on the back or south side of the porch. A two-story cross-gable pavilion is centered on the street (north) side. A two-story ell was added later to the southwest corner of the house. Door and window architraves are modest in scale and embellished with a small cornice. Two-over-one wood sashes are old replacements. There are no outbuildings.

The David L. & Margaret W. Morrill House is a distinctive example of mid-19th-century domestic architecture in the Crown Hill neighborhood and the city of Worcester. Situated at the core of the historic district, the house is contained within streetscapes containing houses of similar scale and design on Congress and Crown streets.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

1 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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The house at 1 Congress Street was built about 1865 for its first owner, attorney David Lawrence Morrill and his wife, Margaretta. Morrill had been born in Goffstown, New Hampshire in 1827 and was practicing law in West Brookfield by 1855. By 1860 he had moved to Worcester and by 1863 was boarding on Pleasant Street with his wife Margaretta Jane Wentworth, whom had had married in Concord, New Hampshire in 1851, their two children Lydia and David L. Jr., and an Irish-born domestic servant. The 1865 Worcester directory shows the family at 1 Congress Street. The next year, however, Morrill sold the property to book manufacturer Elijah C. Linnell, and by 1870 the Morrills were living in Red Oak, Iowa; Morrill died in Kansas City, Missouri, in 1904.

Just ten months after having acquired it, Elijah Linnell sold the 1 Congress Street house and lot to cotton broker Calvin Taft.¹ Born in Roxbury in 1813, Taft began his career as a country store clerk in Grafton, then founded his own general stores first in Millbury and then in the Farnumsville section of Grafton, and in 1838 moved to begin a new general store in Hawkinsville, Georgia. Here, as part of his normal business, Taft began buying and selling cotton, which then became his sole occupation for the next twenty-five years. He returned to the North at the outbreak of the Civil War, traded cotton in New York City through the war years, and then moved to Worcester. He helped found and manage several area paper companies and the Worcester Safe Deposit and Trust Company and was a director of Mechanics National Bank in 1867.²

About 1871 the Tafts moved to Main Street and sold the property in that year to Lucia L. Stratton, the wife of Congregational minister Royal B. Stratton. Born in Potsdam, New York in 1826, Stratton began his pastoral career in the Methodist church in New York City and about 1851 became the "home missionary" for the Pacific Coast; he was based in Sacramento. During this service he met Olive Oatman, one of two survivors of what is known as the Oatman massacre. Her family split off from a wagon train of dissenting "Brewsterite" Mormons heading for California and met a group of what are believed to have been Yavapai Indians, who killed the parents, four of their seven children, left a son for dead, and abducted two daughters, Olive and Mary Ann. Mary Ann, seven at the time, died three years later of starvation during a drought, but Olive was sold to Mojave Indians and lived with them for two years until military officials at Fort Yuma in Arizona arranged a trade for her. Upon meeting Olive Oatman Royal Stratton wrote *Captivity of the Oatman Girls*; thirty thousand copies of the narrative were sold after its publication in 1857.

About 1862 Stratton returned East and became pastor at a Congregational church in Great Barrington, and he became pastor of Worcester's first church, the Old South, in 1867. He served for five years and then resigned, according to one biographical account, because of "ill health manifesting itself in a tendency toward insanity"; insanity is shown as the cause of this January 1875 death in vital statistics. "He was an enthusiastic Christian worker and somewhat radical in his views on reformatory questions, resulting perhaps from a lack of evenness of temperament," the biography states, "but he was universally esteemed for the sincerity of his convictions."³

Stratton and his wife Lucia remained at 1 Congress Street until 1873, when Lucia Stratton sold the property to another minister, Benjamin DeForest Marshall of the First Baptist Church. Born in North Egremont, Massachusetts, in 1826, Marshall lived in the house in 1880 with his wife Catherine Woods Marshall, their daughters Cornelia (then 22 years of age) and Helen (then 17), their sons John (20) and Ernest (10), and a domestic servant. The Marshall family remained at 1 Congress Street for more than three decades. Catherine Marshall died in 1899 and Benjamin Marshall in 1906. Their daughter Helen, who taught drawing in the Worcester public schools, remained in the house until 1909, when she and her siblings sold it to Quebec-born barber Alfred F. Mathieu, who in turn sold it five years later to Ernest R. and Edith L. Nordell.⁴

The Nordells owned 1 Congress Street until 1937. Ernest Nordell, born in Sweden about 1866, came to the United States when he was five years old. By 1892 he was living with his widowed mother Christina and his siblings Charles and Edith in Worcester, and by 1903 he worked as a sawyer. By 1910 the Nordell siblings owned 5 Congress Street, and Ernest worked as a drug store salesman. Nordell bought 1 Congress Street as an income property and never lived there; by 1930 he and his sister Edith

¹ David L. Morrill to Elijah C. Linnell, 1 January 1866, WCD 25:56; Linnell to Calvin Taft, 19 November 1866, WCD 737:169.

² Ellery Bicknell Crane, ed., *Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Worcester County, Massachusetts* (New York and Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1907), 2:435-36.

³ Caleb A. Wall, *Reminiscences of Worcester from the Earliest Period, Historical and Genealogical* (Worcester: Tyler and Seagrave, 1877), 124.

⁴ Cornelia D. Boardman et al., heirs of Benjamin D. Marshall, to Alfred F. Mathieu, 25 June 1909, WCD 1909:482; Mathieu to Edith L. and Ernest R. Nordell, 28 August 1914, WCD 2062:347.

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WORCESTER

1 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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owned and occupied 4 Congress Street, and they also owned 6, 7, and 9 Congress Street and 7, 8, and 10 Crown Street at the time. There was considerable turnover at 1 Congress Street during the Nordells' ownership: none of the tenants shown in the 1916 house directory were listed there in 1922, and no 1922 tenant is shown there in the 1930 house directory.

In 1937 the Nordells defaulted on their mortgage for 1 Congress Street, and two years later Worcester Five Cents Savings Bank sold the property to Charles M. and Hildred C. Scofield. Charles Scofield was born in Massachusetts about 1888 and worked as a nurse and companion for various families; the 1930 census shows him as a nurse to Charles P. Wilder, who moved with the Scofields from Irving to Congress Street. In 1940 the Scofields lived at 1 Congress Street with Wilder and rented other units to sexton Thomas S. Bates, his wife Edna, and their son Warren B. Bates, who ran a service station on Park Avenue. Ranklin G. Meserve, the son of Hildred C. Scofield by her first marriage to leather worker Carl Meserve, lived there as well and worked at the time for machinery manufacturer Leland Gifford Company. The Scofields, Wilder, and Meserve still lived at 1 Congress Street in 1950, and by 1960 ownership of the property had passed to Carl L. Meserve, probably Franklin's brother. As administrator of his mother's estate, Carl Meserve sold 1 Congress Street to Frederick A. and Eleanor A. Voisinet, who sold it to Hubert W. and Helen E. Davis in 1965. The Davises, who had lived at 26 Oxford Street from 1948 to 1954, owned 1 Congress Street and occupied one of its two units as of 1984.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

CD = city directory, HD = house directory, M = map, C = census, VR=vital records

- 1863CD Morrill David L. counselor, Bank block, bds. 18 Pleasant
Taft Calvin, cotton broker, h. 322 Main
- 1860C 1) David L. Morrill ae 33 lawyer \$1500 personal prop b NH, Margaret W ae 33 b NH, Lydia C ae 7, David L ae 2, domestic Bridget Roak ae 35 b Ireland; 2) Otis N. Blood carriage maker and wife Maria
- 1860C Calvin Taft ae 54 cotton dealer, Jennie Taft 21, Susan Taft 17, Eddy Taft 14 in large hh of auctioneer Alexander Putnam
- 1880C 772 Main: Calvin Taft ae 67 retired paper mfr, wife Cornelia ae 56, boarder Srar4ah Wedge school teacher, servant

1865CD Morrill David L. counselor, Bank block, h. 1 Congress FIRST INSTANCE

- 1866 Deed 725:56 1/1/1866 in consideration of \$5600 David L. Morrill to Elijah C. Linnell 60x110 lot and dwelling, Linnell assumes 2 mortgages to Peoples Ins. Co. amounting to \$2000
- 1866 Deed 737:169 11/19/66 in consideration of \$6000 Elijah C. Linnell to Calvin Taft, with mortgages
- 1867CD Linnell Elijah C. & Co. (D.G. Rawson) boot manufacturers, 10 Pleasant, h. 1 Congress
Taft Calvin, manufacturer [director Mechanics National Bank], h. 322 Main
- 1870M #3 has no name, on same lot as #5 J. Spaulding
- 1871 Deed 833:589 2/20/1871 in consideration of \$7159.93 Calvin Taft to Lucia L. Stratton, wife of R.B. Stratton
- 1871CD Taft Calvin, manufacturer, h. 322 Main
- 1871CD Stratton Rev. R.B. pastor of Old South church, h. 1 Congress
- 1872SD 1, ho., Royal B. Stratton, pastor of Old South Church
- 1873 Deed 906:212 7/31/1873 in consideration of \$10,500 Lucia L. Stratton to B.D. Marshall "and gas fixtures in the dwelling house thereon"
- 1875C Marshall Benjamin D. pastor First Baptist Church [Salem Square], h. 1 Congress

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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- 1886M B.D. Marshall
- 1890HD Marshall Benj. D. clergyman
Marshall Ernest W. student, b.
Howe Ann E. widow, b.
Marshall Helen D. Miss, b.
Benj. D. Marshall, bld. \$2900; 6725 ft. \$3400
- 1896M B.D. Marshall
- 1900HD Marshall B.D. clergyman
Marshall H.D. Miss, artist, b.
Marshall Benjamin D. bld. \$2900; 6725 ft. \$3700
- 1909 Deed 1909:482 6/25/1909 Cornelia D. Boardman, et al., heirs of Benjamin D. Marshall to Alfred F. Mathieu
- 1910HD Mathieu Alfred barber 1 CD: 31 State Mutual Bldg
May Samuel carpenter 2
Fish Warren C. helper b CD: 15 Grafton – Garland J.B. & Son, grain
Fish Edith J Mrs bookkeeper b CD: 18 Lincoln Sq – Worcester Cooperative Market Co
Marshall Benjamin D heirs, bld. \$2800; 6725 ft. \$3,000
- 1911M A.F. Mathieu
- 1914 Deed 2062:347 8/28/1914 Alfred F. Mathieu to Edith L Nordell & Ernest R. Nordell (Nordells live first at #4 and later at #7; own both)
- 1916HD Fuller Waldemar foreman 1 CD: 922 supt. 20 Franklin – Worcester Telegram
Fuller Harold W printer b CD: Worcester Telegram
Crook Charles W molder 2
Nordell Ernest R. & Edith L. bld. \$3000; 6725 ft. \$3000
- 1922HD Macduff Alexander S CD: cost clerk 69 Hammond – Wickwire Spencer Steel Corp
Rocheleau Victor E CD: opr
Goulet Louis J b CD: helper 75 Grove – Logan, Swift & Brigham Envelope Co.
Whiting Albert b
Nordell Ernest R. & Edith L. bld. \$6000; 6725 ft. \$3000
- 1930HD Quinn Burton F CD: (Myra A) machinist
Quinn Marion C r CD: steno 18 Grafton (United Mfg Co, clothing
Quinn Maude B r
Mahoney James H CD: (Mary) plumbing insp 35 City Hall
Nordell Ernest R. & Edith L. bld. \$7000; 6725 ft. \$3000; also own 4, 6, 7 & 9 Congress; 7, 8 & 10 Crown
- 1937 Worcester Five Cent Savings Bank foreclose on Nordell mortgage 5/1/1937 foreclosure action recorded 2693:395; mortgage recorded 2466:475 (5/22/1928)
- 1939 Deed 2725:438 6/25/1938 Worcester Five Cent Savings Bank to Charles M. & Hildred C Scofield
- 1940HD Bates Thos S CD: (Edna M) sexton
Bates Warren B r CD: Bates & Warren Service Station, 229 Park Av, w/ Thos J Hogan
Scofield Chas M CD: (Mildred C) companion

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1 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Meserve Franklin G r CD: (Frances M) prtr Leland Gifford Co
Wilder Chas R r
Scofield Chas M & Hildred C. bldg \$4500; 6725 ft. \$2000

1950HD Meserve Franklin
Scofield Chas M
Wilder Chas P r
Scofield Chas M & Hildred C. bldg \$5000; 6725 ft. \$1700

1960HD Voisinet Fredk A rec Phalo Plastic Co (Eleanor, cash-exam Pilene's)
Voisinet John F r ofc boy Worc Mut Fire Ins Co
Meserve Carl L et al [no details]

1960 Deed 4099:546 4/1/1960 Carl L. Meserve, admr estate of Hildred C. Scofield, to Frederick A. Voisinet & Eleanor A. Voisinet, his wife

1965 Deed 4542:472 2/25/1965 Frederick A. Voisinet & Eleanor A. Voisinet to Hubert W. Davis & Helen E. Davis, the Davises owned and lived at 26 Oxford St 1948-1954

1970HD Stoddard Louise Mrs
Davis Hubert W
Davis Hubert W & Helen E. hse \$5000; 6725 ft. \$1700

1984HD Stoddard John
Davis Hubert W
Davis Hubert W & Helen E. hse \$21,900; 6725 ft. \$8700

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1 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES*Maps & Atlases*

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- 1833 Stebbins, H. *Map of Worcester, Shire Town of the County of Worcester*. Boston: C. Harris.
- 1844 "Plan of the Village of Worcester, 1844." *The Worcester Almanac, Directory and Business Advertiser*. Worcester: H.J. Howland, 1844.
- 1851 Walling, Henry F. *Map of the City of Worcester*. [Boston?]: Warren Lazell.
- 1857 Walling, Henry F. *Map of Worcester County, Massachusetts*. Boston: Wm E. Baker & Co.
- c1860 Ball, P. *Map of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts*. [Worcester?]: Smith & McKinney
- 1870 *Atlas of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts*. New York: F.W. Beers & Co.
- 1877 Wall, Caleb & S. Triscott. "Map of Worcester, Massachusetts – Showing oldest roads and location of earliest settlers." In Caleb Wall's *Reminiscences of Worcester*. Worcester: Tyler & Seagrave.
- 1878 *Bird's-eye View of the City of Worcester*. Boston: G.H. Walker.
- 1886 *Atlas of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: G.M. Hopkins.
- 1896 *Richard's Atlas of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts*. Springfield, MA: L.J. Richards & Co.
- 1901 *Worcester Index for 1901*.
- 1911 *Richard's Atlas of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts*. Springfield, MA: L.J. Richards & Co.
- 1922 *Richard's Atlas of the City of Worcester, Massachusetts*. Springfield, MA: L.J. Richards & Co.
- 1936 *Insurance Maps of Worcester, Massachusetts* (4 vols.) New York: Sanborn Map Co. Revised in 1977.

Directories and Census

- The Worcester Almanac, Directory and Business Advertiser*. Worcester: H.J. Howland, 1844-1864. Published annually.
- The Worcester Directory*. Worcester: H.J. Howland, 1865-1872. Published annually.
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- The Worcester Directory*. Boston, then Malden: R.L. Polk & Co., 1939- . Published annually.

The Worcester House Directory. Worcester: Drew, Allis & Co., 1888-1918. Published semi-annually.

The Worcester House Directory. Worcester: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1920-1938. Published semi-annually.

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The Worcester Society Blue Book; Elite Family Directory and Club Membership. New York: Dau Publishing Co., 1902-1924. Published annually.

Population Schedules of the Federal Decennial Census. Washington, D.C.: National Archives of the United States, 1790-1910. Microfilm.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

1 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from NE



View from NW (garage is part of neighboring property)

FORM B – BUILDING

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MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

03-026-00035	Worcester North	C	WOR.1774
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 2 Congress Street

Historic Name: William P. & Ann Daniels House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1856

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder: William P. Daniels, probable builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Barn (attached)
Iron fence w/ granite curbs

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

none

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1622

Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from SE

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson, Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

2 CONGRESS ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

C

WOR.1774

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The William P. & Ann Daniels House is a distinctive example of mid-19th-century domestic architecture in the city of Worcester and a significant component of the Oxford-Crown Historic District, which was listed on the National Register in 1976. The wood frame house was constructed in 1856, probably by William P. Daniels, who was a carpenter and, later, a lumber dealer. It is located at the east end of the north side of Congress Street, which was laid out shortly before its construction began. The house is positioned on the top of what is now known as Crown Hill, with the terrain sloping abruptly downward north and west. Situated at the core of the historic district, the house is contained within streetscapes containing houses of similar scale and design on Congress and Crown streets.

The large two-story wood-clapboard single-family dwelling is richly ornamented with Italianate details, such as pronounced quoin blocks, bold entablatures with bracketed cornices along roof eaves and multiple gables, and a piazza wrapping across the south (front) and east sides with its own elaborate entablatures. The plan of the house is based on a traditional urban house typical in eastern Massachusetts, a center-hall plan with its narrow, gable end facing the street and an entrance on a side wall. This house enlarges and updates the conventional form with three window bays symmetrically spaced across the street façade and a two-story gabled pavilion adjacent to the entrance on the west wall. The piazza, with its simple pillars and ornate entablature, terminates at the pavilion and the entrance, which is framed by sidelights and a transom. Door and window architraves are modest in scale and unembellished. Original six-over-six window sash remain intact; large multi-paned windows of similar construction now fill the voids between the porch pillars on the front of the house to create a solarium. A one-story, beveled-sided bay window with similar eave decoration is located near the front of the west side.

A story-and-a-half kitchen ell links the main section of the house with a domestic barn at the rear of the lot, linking to what is left of Congress Alley, which once serviced the rears of house lots on Congress and Pleasant streets. Such connected barns would have been common dependencies of houses built in this period. This barn one of only a very few that survive intact in the entire neighborhood.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid-19th-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. Originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin streets. In 1818 this 30-acre hillside tract was acquired by Benjamin Buttman who had lots surveyed along three new streets—Irving, Oxford and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. A small park was laid out the middle of the block between Oxford and Crown giving a name to the area: Park Hill. Slow to develop, Buttman's land was acquired by Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company. He revised the plan, removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but would be until the 1850s that the neighborhood began to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, and this change is reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the 20th century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to utilize the funding from the Housing and Community development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The City invested Community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

2 CONGRESS ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid-19th-century architecture in Worcester.

Previous city directory research established William P. Daniels as the first owner of the house at 2 Congress Street in 1856. A plaque stating that fact is mounted on the house. Daniels was a carpenter by trade, and it is probable that he built his house and possibly others in the neighborhood. A Massachusetts native, he was 35 years of age and living in Lyme, New Hampshire in 1850 with his wife, Ann, 33 years of age, and four young children, aged 3 to 11 years. His son Fred was born in New Hampshire in 1853, implying that the Danielses did not move to Worcester until after that date. By 1864 they had sold the fashionable Congress Street house to merchant Lyman J. Taft and moved across Pleasant Street to 8 (now 16) West Street where in the 1870 census he was enumerated as a retired lumber dealer with real and personal property valued at \$15,000.

Lyman J. Taft and A.J. Lilley were operating a fruit store and eating house at 237 Main Street when Taft purchased the house at 2 Congress Street in 1864. He first appears in Worcester directories in 1850 as a boot trimmer boarding in Hubbardson with farmer Sewell Moulton. His brother, Alonzo, a trimmer, also boarded with the Moultons. By 1853 Lyman, at 23 years of age, was working in the refreshment room in the Boston & Worcester train depot, and over the next decade he established himself as a successful restaurateur. After a number of years in partnership with A.J. Lilley, Taft was joined by Charles H. Rice and George L. Bliss in the business at 237 Main Street in 1870. That year the census reported Taft's real estate at a value of \$22,000, which included the house and at least one commercial property. The Taft household at 2 Congress Street was comprised of Lyman J, age 40 years, and his wife Mary A., 37 years, with their two children, daughter Ella L, age 12, and four-month-old son Charles. Ella Roper, age 28, lived with the family and would continue to do so for many years, as did an Irish servant girl.

Around 1875, Lyman J. Taft joined E.J. Putnam and Frank E. Thurston in one of the city's popular restaurants, Taft, Putnam & Thurston at 381 Main Street. Taft also had an independent eating at the Foster Street depot at the time, a business on which he could fall back in 1878 when he left the partnership. That year the city directory recorded Taft as running an eating house at the Union Street depot with L.H. Browning. Putnam & Thurston would continue in business for many years afterward at the Main Street location; it still can be remembered by some today.

Lyman J. Taft died a year so later; he was not yet 50 years old. The 1880 census enumerated only Mary and her two children in the house. Ten years later, the city house directory valued the property at \$3,900 and the house at \$3,000. The widow Taft had taken in two boarders: A.C. Williams, a bookkeeper, and Jessie E. Tyler, a librarian. In 1900, Mary A. Taft's household included her daughter Ella, then 42 years of age and unmarried, and Eunice (probably Ella) Roper as boarders. Roper was still living with Mrs. Taft when she died in 1910. That same year her estate sold the house to machinist William H. Butler for \$5,500; a month later Butler sold the house to his brother-in-law Thomas C. Carroll, a boxmaker, for \$3,000. Butler, who was single, and the Carroll family all moved into the house together.

Prior to this, Thomas E. Carroll and family apparently lived in a rented house on Coral Street, just off Grafton Street. (William H. Butler's whereabouts are not known for sure, but a person matching his vital statistics was living at 28 Mt. Pleasant St. in Boston, although as a he was employed as a clerk with a wife of 4 years and year-old son.) Thomas E. Carroll and his wife, Bridget, were born in Massachusetts to parents from Ireland. In 1910 Thomas was 60 years of age, and he and Bridget had been married for 37 years. Their eldest daughter, Adaline M., lived with them; she was 34 years of age and was a dressmaker with her own shop. Another daughter, Florence, age 27, worked as a newspaper proofreader. Four younger children rounded out the household, which also included William H. Butler, Bridget Carroll's younger brother. A second family occupied part of the house, evidently to help the working class family support the large house. Harry E. Butterfield, a machinist born in California was the head of that household. He and his wife, Effie, were both 27 years of age and evidently had moved around a bit before landing in Worcester. Effie had been born in Virginia, and their two-year-old son, Harry E. Jr., was born in Indiana. A seven-month-old daughter, Ruth, had been born in Massachusetts. In 1912 the Butterfields were gone, replaced with Isabelle Hayes and Mary E. Lovett, dressmaker and corsetiere, respectively, who both probably worked for Adaline in her shop.

The Carrolls would remain in the house at 2 Congress for a long, long time. In 1920, they rented part of the premises to widow Letitia Smith and her two daughters, Lotta, a church musician, and Clara, a conservatory teacher. Ruth M. Smith, a granddaughter aged 18, also was recorded in the household; she was employed in a leather factory as a cashier. By this time, Charles Carroll, having completed his education, was working for the city as a civil engineer while still living in his parents' home. Thomas died around 1822 intestate leaving his estate to his heirs undivided. Bridget lived until 1930, leaving four unmarried

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

2 CONGRESS ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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children: Adaline, Charles, Lou and Mildred as tenants of the property. William H. Butler and Isabelle Hayes continued as boarders. By 1940 Mildred Carroll had married Burton T. Spencer and moved out of the house, but the remaining three siblings resided at 2 Congress Street into the 1960s. Charles Carroll apparently was the last to survive. In 1975 Mildred C. Spencer as administrator of the estates of her mother, brothers and sisters, conveyed the property to the Worcester Heritage Society. The ornate house was intact but threatened by many years of deferred maintenance. Two years later, the house was sold to Lewis A. Shepard and Ellen R. Berezin, who did much to return the house to its original luster during the 20 years they lived there. The house was bought by its current owners. Randolph R. and Edla Ann Bloom in 1996.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

(CD = city directory, HD = house directory, M = map, C = census)

- 1850C New Hampshire Grafton, Lyme
W.P. Daniels, 35, \$1700 for property, b. MA
A.H. Daniels, 33, F, b. NH
H.W. Daniels 11, M, b. NH
A.E. Daniels, 8, F, b. NH
M.A. Daniels, 5, M, b. NH
C.H. Daniels, 3, M, b. NH
- 1856CD William P. Daniels, carpenter, h 2 Congress FIRST INSTANCE**
- 1860C William P. Daniels, 45, M, Carpenter, \$7,000/\$2,200, b. MA
Ann Daniels, 43, F, b. NH
Henry W. Daniels, 21, M, Carpenter, b. NH
Abbie E. Daniels, 18, F, b. NH
Miron A. Daniels, 15, M, b. NH
Charles H. Daniels, 13, M, b. NH
Fred H. Daniels, 7, M, b. NH
Lura Stark, 45, F, b. NH
- 1863 Moore James D, music store, 207 Main, h 2 Congress (later moved to 9 Quincy)
- 1864CD Taft (Lyman J.) & Lilley (A.J.) fruit store & eating house 237 Main h. 2 Congress FIRST INSTANCE
- 1850C Hubbardson, Worc. Co., boot trimmer, bds. Sewell Moulton, farmer, w/ bro. Alonzo, trimmer
 - 1853CD Taft Lyman J., refreshment room, B & W Depot FIRST RECORD
 - 1855CD Taft Lyman J. refreshment room, 237 Main, bds 17 Chestnut
 - 1857CD Taft Lyman J. (Thayer & T.) 237 Main h. 4 Sudbury
 - 1859CD Taft (Lyman J.) & Lilley (A.J.) fruit store & eating house 237 Main h. 13 Harvard
 - 1860C Worcester, Lyman Taft, 30, M, Restaurant, 0/\$1,000, b. MA
 - 1862CD Taft (Lyman J.) & Lilley (A.J.) fruit store & eating house 237 Main h. 2 Ashland
- 1865CD Taft (Lyman J.) Bliss (Geo. L.) & Rice (Chas H.) fruit store & eating house, 237 Main, house 2 Congress
- 1870M #4 Taft
- 1870CD Taft (Lyman J.), Rice (Charles H.) & Harrington (Frank) fruit store & eating house, 233 Main, house 2 Congress
- 1870C Worcester
Taft Lyman J, 40, M, Keeps restaurant, \$22,000/\$3,000, b. MA
Mary A., 37, F, Keeping House, b. MA
Ella L., 12, F, At School, b. MA
Charles L., 4/12, M, At Home, b. MA
Roper, Ella, 28, F, No Occupation, B. MA

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

2 CONGRESS ST.

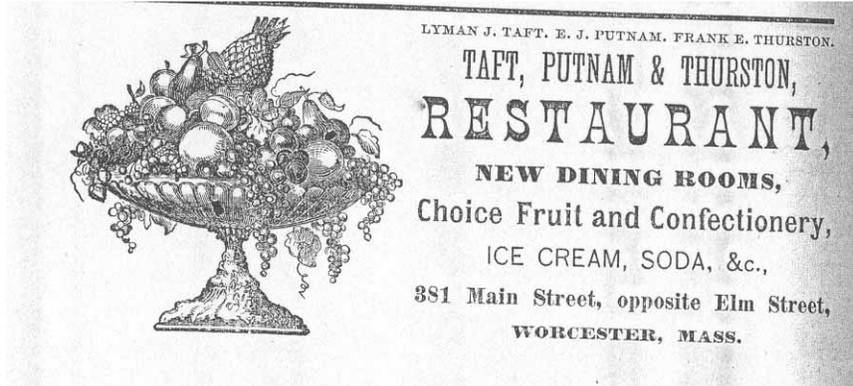
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Cleary, Margaret, 23, F, Domestic Servant, b. Ireland

1875CD Taft, Lyman J. eating house, Foster St. depot, and, (*Taft, Putnam & Thurston*), 381 Main, house 2 Congress
Taft, Putnam & Thurston (L.J. Taft, E.J. Putnam and F.E. Thurston), eating house, 381 Main. —see page 466



1878CD Taft, Lyman J. & Co. (*L.H. Browning*) , eating house, Union depot, house 2 Congress

1880C Worcester
Taft, Mary A., 48, Keeps House
Ella L., 22, daughter, [illegible]
Charles L., 10, son, at school

1886M L. Taft

1890HD Taft Mary A. widow
Williams A.C. bookkeeper, b.
Tyler Jessie E. librarian, b.
L.J. Taft hrs. blds. \$3000; 7066 ft. \$3900

1896M L. Taft Heirs

1900HD Taft Mary A. Mrs.
Taft Ella L. Miss, b.
Roper Eunice E. Miss, b.
Taft Mary A. blds. \$3000; 7066 ft. \$4200

1900C no entry for Taft found
Thomas E Carroll & family living on 29 Corral [Coral?] St, off Grafton St.
William H. Butler not listed in Worcester; person matching description living at 28 Mt. Pleasant St. in Boston, although as a clerk with a wife of 4 years (Annie) and year-old son (William J.).

1908HD Taft Mary A Mrs
Rand Floyd S clerk b
Roper Ella E Miss b

1910HD Vacant house
Taft Mary A, blds \$3200; 7066 ft. \$3500

1910 Deed, 1927:539, 25 March 1910
Eliza L. Blinn, adm. estate of Mary A. Taft, to William H. Butler, \$5,500

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2 CONGRESS ST.

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1910 Deed 1968:391, 15 April 1910, William H. Butler to Thomas E. Carroll, \$3,000

1910C Worcester
 Carroll Thomas C., 60, head, boxmaker, lumber yard, b. MA, parents b. Ireland
 Bridget, 49, wife, married 37 yrs, 6 of 10 children surviving, b. MA, parents b. Ireland
 Adaline M., 34, daughter, dressmaker, business
 Florence, 27, daughter, proofreader, newspaper
 Lula, 24, daughter, none
 Charles, 22, son, none
 Chester, 17, son, none
 Meldred, 5, son, none
 Butler, William H., 48, brother-in-law, machinist, iron works
 Butterfield, Harry E., 27, head, machinist, auto works, b. California
 Effie, 27, wife, none, b. Virginia
 Harry E. Jr., 2, son, none, b. Indiana
 Ruth E., 7/12, daughter, none, b. MA

1911M W. Butler

1912HD Carroll Thomas E boxmaker
 Carroll Adeline M dressmaker b
 Carroll Florence G proofreader b
 Carroll Lou Miss b
 Carroll Charles A student b
 Hayes Isabelle dressmaker b
 Lovett Mary E corsetiere b
 Butler William H machinist b
Butler William H. blds. \$2700; 7066 ft. \$3500

1914HD *Carroll Thomas E. blds. \$2700; 7066 ft. \$3500*

1920HD Carroll Thomas E Mr & Mrs
 Carroll Adeline M b
 Carroll Lou b
 Carroll Charles A b
 Carroll Chester D b
 Hayes Isabelle b
 Butler William H b
 Smith Lotta b
Carroll Thomas E. blds. \$2700; 7066 ft. \$3500

1920C Worcester
 Smith, Letitia, 66, wd, head, renter, b. Indiana
 Lotta, 39, daughter, church musician
 Clara L., 35, daughter, conservatory teacher
 Ruth M., 18, granddaughter, cashier in leather factory
 Carroll, Thomas, 65, head, boxmaker, wholesale drug
 Bridget, 65, wife, none,
 Adaline, 40, daughter, dressmaker in shop
 Charles, 32, son, civil engineer, city employee
 Lou, 30, daughter, none
 Chester, 25, son, none
 Mildred, 23, daughter, stenographer, wholesale well operator

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2 CONGRESS ST.

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Butler, William H., 51, brother-in-law, laborer, machine factory

1922 M T.E. Carroll

1922 Deed, 2275:501, 2 August 1922
Thomas E. & Bridget M. Carroll to Lou C. Carroll

1929CD Carroll Charles A civil eng City Hall h 2 Congress
Carroll Adaline M dressmaker 3 Aldrich pl [own shop] res 2 Congress
Carroll Mildred B clerk 303 Main [Mechanics National Bank] res 2 Congress
Hayes Isabelle S dressmaker res 2 Congress

1930HD Carroll Charles A
Carroll Adaline M r
Carroll Lou C r
Carroll Mildred B r
Hayes Isabelle S r
Butler William H r
Doyle Ellen E r
Carroll Thomas E. heirs & Bridget M. blds. \$6200; 7066 ft. \$3500

1930C Worcester
Carroll, Bridget M., 70, head, \$1,500, none
Adaline M., 50, daughter, dressmaker
Charles A., 42, son, civil engineer
Lula C., 39, daughter, home work
Mildred B., 30, daughter, bank
Butler, William H., 66, brother, retired
Hayes, Isabelle, 70, roomer, retired

Doyle, Ellen E., 57, renter, none

1940HD Carroll Chas A
Carroll Adaline M r
Carroll Lou C r
Butler Richd r
Butler Wm H r
Carroll Thomas E. heirs & Bridget M. blds. \$5200; 7066 ft. \$2100

1952HD Carroll Chas A
Carroll Adaline M r
Carroll Lou C
Carroll Thomas E. & Bridget M. blds. \$5200; 7066 ft. \$1800

1960HD Carroll Chas A
Carroll Adaline M r
Carroll Lou C
Carroll Thomas E. & Bridget M. barn \$200, hse \$5000; 7066 ft. \$1800

1970HD Carroll Charles A 756-3097
Carroll Thomas E. & Bridget M. barn \$200, hse \$5000; 7066 ft. \$1800

1975 Deed, 5850:22, 24 Nov 1975
Mildred C. Spencer, both individually and as adm of estates of Bridget Carroll and her other children, to Worcester Heritage Society, \$18,000

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- 1976 House listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Oxford-Crown Historic District
- 1977 Deed ,6146:337, 28 March 1977
Worcester Heritage Society to Lewis A. Shepard & Ellen R. Berezin, \$17,750
- 1982HD Shepard Lewis A, 756-0172
Shepard , Lewis A & Berezin, Ellen R barn \$200; hse \$5000; 7066 ft \$1800
- 1996 Deed, 18488:29, 9 Dec 1996
Lewis A. Shepard & Ellen R. Berezin to Randolph R. & Edla Ann Bloom

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

2 CONGRESS ST.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from SE



View from SW

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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2 CONGRESS ST.

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View from north

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

03-026-00032	Worcester North	V	WOR.1041
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 4 Congress Street

Historic Name: James & Persis H. Andrews House

Uses: Present: Residential

Original: Residential

Date of Construction: 1850

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

none

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1326

Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from SE

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

4 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The James & Persis H. Andrews House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with front gable roof. The house is situated on the north side of Congress Street west of Crown Street in the center of a 0.1326-acre hilltop lot. It is set back from the sidewalk behind a sizeable front yard demarcated by granite curbs with granite posts at the corners and driveway opening. A paved driveway runs along the east lot line with lawn surrounding the remaining sides and rear of the house.

The wood-clapboard dwelling is ornamented with Greek Revival-style details, such as pronounced corner pilasters, tall Classical entablatures, and pedimented gables. Its later date, relative to this style period, is reflected in the addition of a piazza wrapping across the front and around the east side and terminating at a cross-gable pavilion centered there. The piazza maintains a Classical appearance with the use of columns for posts and an undecorated cornice. The traditional townhouse plan is preserved with its three bay front façade with an entrance on the side; the door architrave is simple, without sidelights or Greek trim. Likewise the windows have plain surrounds. A two-story ell with the same design details extends from the rear. At some later time, a Venetian window was added in the front pediment and a shingled bowed bay window added to the west wall. The window sash likely was altered at this time to its current six-over-one format. There are no outbuildings.

The James & Persis H. Andrews House is a distinctive example of mid-19th-century domestic architecture in the Crown Hill neighborhood and the city of Worcester. Its late Greek Revival-style design is largely intact. Situated at the core of the historic district, the house is contained within streetscapes containing houses of similar scale and design on Congress and Crown streets.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

The house at 4 Congress Street was built in 1850 for the grocer James Andrews. Born in nearby Boylston about 1816, Andrews was living on Park Street in Worcester in 1849 and at an unnumbered location on Congress Street in 1850. He occupied the

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

4 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

house with his wife Persis H. Kendall Andrews, also a native of Boylston, their sons Samuel and George, the nineteen-year-old painter Edward Andrews (whose relation to Jason Andrews, if any, is not known), and the daguerreotypist Charles Clafflin and his wife Emma, both natives of Massachusetts. Andrews died in 1852 in his mid-thirties, and his widow remained in the house, initially numbered 6 Congress, through at least part of 1859. In 1860 she moved back to the Boylston farm of her parents, Samuel and Abigail Hastings Kendall, with her son George, who then worked as a shoemaker. She remained there at least through 1880, when she was in her early sixties.

In 1870 Persis Andrews leased half of the 4 Congress house to office clerk Freeman Brown and his wife Flora, both Massachusetts natives; Freeman Brown was born about 1845 in Worcester and was the son of Lyman and Salome Brown. The other half of the house was occupied by the retired clothing merchant Louis Lewisson, who had been born in Poland about 1823, his wife Almena, and his four children; the Lewissons had come to Worcester from New York State by 1859 and had lived in the mid-1850s in Rhode Island.¹ By 1872 Freeman Brown shared the house with the family of Reuben Doolittle, about whom nothing is yet known, and the widow Sophia K. Herrick, whose husband Charles, like Lewisson a clothing dealer, had died in 1871 at the age of twenty-seven.

Persis Andrews owned 4 Congress Street and leased it to various tenants until 1902, when, though she was then living in Berlin, Massachusetts, she died in Worcester. By 1910 Howard Dickinson Brewer, who with his father Edwin Avery Brewer owned the wholesale and retail drug company Brewer and Company, owned 4 Congress Street. Born in Worcester in 1881, Brewer married Flora Isabelle Whittemore of Worcester in 1905, and by 1906 he was living at 4 Congress. In 1917 Edwin Avery Brewer died, and Howard Brewer moved his family into his childhood home at 19 Oxford Street. By 1922 Brewer sold the 4 Congress Street property to Ernest R. Nordell and his sister Edith Nordell. Born in Sweden about 1866, Ernest Nordell (in early directories shown as Nordahl) came to the United States when he was five years old. By 1892 he was living with his widowed mother Christina and his siblings Charles and Edith in Worcester, and by 1903 he worked as a sawyer. By 1910 the Nordell siblings owned 5 Congress Street, and in 1914 they acquired 1 Congress Street. By 1930 he and his sister Edith owned 1, 4, 6, 7, and 9 Congress Street and 7, 8, and 10 Crown Street, but their longtime home was this house at 4 Congress.

In 1910 Ernest Nordell had been a drug store salesman, and it seems likely that he worked for the Brewer family. In 1922 he was working as a custodian at Worcester Buick Company. He and his sister Edith owned 4 Congress Street until 1950, and in 1951 a realty company sold the property to Joseph E. and Grace L. Lavine.² The Lavines in turn sold it in 1952 to George W. White, who sold it eight months later to A. Blanche Paquette, who owned and operated Paquette Beauty Shop in Worcester. She owned it and ran it as a rooming house until she sold it in 1979.³

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

CD = city directory, HD = house directory, SD = street directory, M = map, C = census, VR=vital records

1850CD Andrews James, grocer, 85 Front, h Congress FIRST INSTANCE

1870M #6 S. John (?)

1870C enumerated after Lyman Taft (2 Congress):

1) Brown Freeman 25 clerk office b MA \$800 personal property, Flora P ae 20 b MA

2) Louis Lewisson ae 47 retired merchant fancy goods \$2000 personal prop b Poland, Almena ae 46 b CT, Ephraim ae 18 clerk in store b RI, Lucy 17 b RI, Walter U ae 15 b RI, Louis Jr ae 12 b NY, domestic Bridget

1872SD 6, ho., Freeman Brown, clerk, 444 Main, Spy office

¹ The 4 Congress Street property is marked "S. John" on the 1870 map of the city, but no one with that surname appears in the 1867 or 1871 city directories or in the 1870; the label could indicate any of a number of persons with the surname St. John who were living in Worcester at the time.

² Gaylord Realty Corp. to Joseph E. and Grace L. Lavine, 15 January 1951, WCD 3313:152.

³ Joseph E. and Grace L. Lavine to George W. White, 2 January 1952, WCD 3391:61; White to A. Blanche Paquette, 3 September 1952, WCD 3446:480; Paquette to Bernard Howard, 26 December 1979, WCD 6897:272.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

4 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

6, ___, Reuben Doolittle, gas machines
 6, ho., Sophia K. Herrick, widow

1886M #6 Mrs. P.H. Andrews

1890HD listed as #6
 Burbank W.H. salesman 1
 Fiske E.R. adv. agent 2
**Persis H. Andrews, bld. \$2100; 5776 ft. \$320*

1896M Mrs. P.H. Andrew

1900HD Barber Benj. F. Mr. & Mrs. 1
 Burgess C.B. Miss, b.
 Bassett Pliny E. Mr. & Mrs. 2
 Conant Mary P. Mrs. b.
Andrews Persis H. (Boyleston), bld. \$2100; 5776 ft. \$3500

1910HD Brewer Howard D Mr & Mrs (CD: pres. Brewer & Co., retail druggists @ 56 Front St; wholesale druggists @ 221 Commercial; Firestone auto tires, 225 Commercial; Oldfield auto tires, 20A Washington Sq; paints 63 Mechanic)
Brewer Howard D, bld. \$2800; 5776 ft. \$2900

1911M H.D. Brewer

1922HD Nordell Ernest R (CD: custodian, 221 Commercial – Worcester Buick Co.)
 Nordell Edith L b (CD: sec, 221 Commercial)
 Rose Lucy A (CD: housekeeper)
Nordell Ernest R. & Edith L. bld. \$4500; 5776 ft. \$2900

1930HD Nordell Ernest R
 Nordell Edith L r
Nordell Ernest R. & Edith L. bld. \$5500; 5776 ft. \$2900; also own 1, 6, 7 & 9 Congress; 7, 8 & 10 Crown

1940HD Nordell Ernest R
 Nordell Edith L r
Nordell Ernest R. & Edith L. & Chas E. bldg. \$5000; 5776 ft. \$1700; also own 6 Congress & 7 Crown

1950HD Nordell Ernest R
 Nordell Edith L r
Nordell Ernest R. et al. bldg. \$5000; 5776 ft. \$1400; also own 6 Congress & 7 Crown

1951 Deed 3313:152 1/15/1951 Gaylord Realty Corp. to Joseph E. Lavine & Grace L. Lavine, subject to \$8000 mortgage with May Realty Corp.

1952 Deed 3391:61 1/2/1952 Joseph E. Lavine & Grace L. Lavine to George W. White subject to \$9000 mortgage with Leicester Savings Bank

1952 Deed 3446:480 9/3/1952 George W White to A. Blanche Paquette

1960HD Paquette Armand (CD: (Clarisse L) leather wkr Graton & Knight Co (h 6 Corrine);
 Blanche Mrs. Blanche Paquette Beauty Shop, r 4 Congress
 Cheney Frances r
 Donnelly Margt r (CD: clk Reed & Prince Mfg Co., bolts, nuts & screws)

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Harney Maplet r
 Gleason Anna r
 Robida Bertha
 Nesbitt Agnes wid James M
 Normandy Eva r
Paquette A Blanche, house \$5000; 5776 ft. \$1400

1970HD *Paquette Blanche Mrs rm hse*
Paquette A Blanche, hse \$5000; 5776 ft. \$1400

1979 Deed 6897:272 12/26/1979 in consideration of \$24,000 A Blanche Paquette to Bernard Howard

1984HD vacant
Howard Bernard \$33,200; 5776 ft. \$7500

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

4 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1041
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from SE



View from SE

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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4 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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View from SW

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

03-026-00031	Worcester North	V	WOR.1026
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 5 Congress Street

Historic Name: John E. & Alvira Spaulding House

Uses: Present: Multi-Family Residential

Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1859

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: John F. & Lorenzo Spaulding, prob. bldrs.

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Cobblestone basement & wood shingles added ca. 1912
Shed dormer added east side ca. 1912
Entrance & window sash replaced ca. 1912

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1542 acres

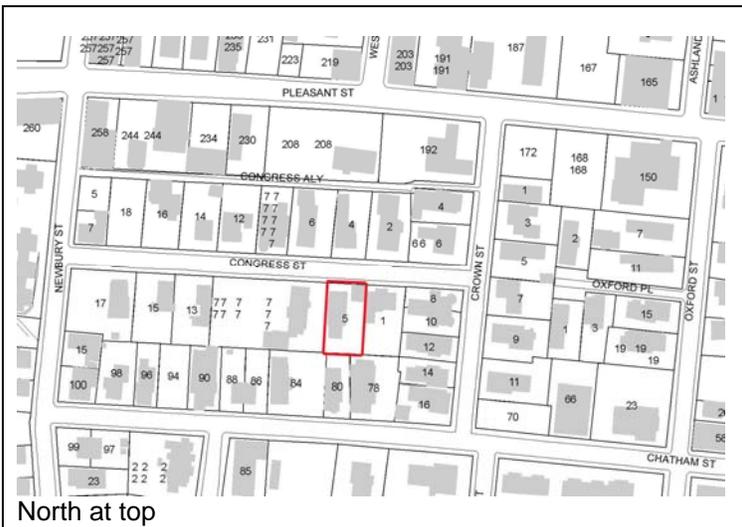
Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from NE

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

5 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The John E. & Alvira Spaulding House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with front gable roof. The house is situated on the south side of Congress Street west of Crown Street in the center of a 0.1542-acre lot on the west slope of Crown Hill. It is sited close to the sidewalk behind a small bermed front yard demarcated by granite curbs with granite posts at the corners. Stone stairs lead from the sidewalk up to the entrance porch. There is no driveway; a two-car garage occupies the northeast corner of the parcel.

The wood-clapboard dwelling is ornamented with Greek Revival-style details, such as pronounced corner pilasters, tall Classical entablatures, and pedimented gables. Its later date, relative to this style period, is reflected in the addition of brackets to the entablatures, broken pediment bases, and a cross-gable pavilion centered on the west wall. A traditional townhouse plan is fronted by a three bay façade containing an entrance on the west side with a trabeated architrave modified with thinner pilasters and a lintel with bracketed cornice. A porch at the entrance is similarly detailed; however, its base was altered by the addition of shingled kneewalls in the early 1900s. At the same time, a cobblestone foundation (it may be just a facing replacing original granite slabs) was added at least to the front. A two-story rear ell appears to have originated as a story-and-a-half in height and raised later when the house was converted to a multi-unit dwelling. Likewise, a shed dormer was raised on the east side of the roof when living space was added to the attic. The window sash likely was altered at this time to its current six-over-one format. A brick two-car garage was constructed at the sidewalk's edge on the east property line. Its proximity to the neighboring property (1 Congress Street) suggests that it was intended for the use of the owner of both properties, who resided at 1 Congress Street.

The John E. & Alvira Spaulding House is a distinctive example of mid-19th-century domestic architecture in the Crown Hill neighborhood and the city of Worcester. Its late Greek Revival-style design is largely intact. Situated at the core of the historic district, the house is contained within streetscapes containing houses of similar scale and design on Congress and Crown streets.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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5 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

The house at 5 Congress Street was built about 1859 for the brothers John E. and Lorenzo G. Spaulding. The Spauldings were born in Cavendish, Vermont, the sons of carpenter John Spaulding Jr. and his wife Lucy. John Spaulding came to Worcester sometime between 1854 and 1857; his brother was in West Boylston in 1857. The 1859 Worcester directory shows them living at 5 Congress Street, and at that time John E. Spaulding is shown as either a dealer or manufacturer of sewing machines and Lorenzo as a carpenter; the 1860 census lists Lorenzo as a sewing machine manufacturer with \$700 in personal property. He had by then moved from 5 Congress and was renting part of a house on Chatham Street Place.

John E. Spaulding owned and occupied 5 Congress Street through at least 1870. In that year he lived in the house with his second wife Alvira Kingman, a native of Bridgewater whom he married in Worcester in 1862, their three young children, an Irish-born domestic servant, and three boarders—milliner Mary E. Smith, dressmaker Annie Armstead, and Pennsylvania-born carpenter Thomas Darlington. By 1872, however, Spaulding had sold the house to wool carder William Mayo, who rented space in the house to his widowed sister Emily E. Ward and to the architect Charles H. Burleigh, who lived there through 1879 and then moved to Auburn Street.¹ In 1880 William Mayo, who was born between 1795 and 1805 in Hardwick, lived at 5 Congress with his wife Sarah Dennis Mayo, a native of Marblehead, his sister Emily Ward, and her sons George and Robert. William Mayo died in 1885, and his widow and his sister's family remained in the house with another widow, Jane Estabrook, and her son Henry, a bookkeeper.

In 1890 Sarah Dennis Mayo died, and by 1896 5 Congress Street had been sold to Electa P. Thompson, the widow of George L. Thompson; they were probably from Northboro. By 1900 Thompson had moved with her daughter Mary and her son-in-law Charles M. McFarland to Tennessee, but she continued to own the Worcester property until at least 1910. The 1911 city map shows the property owned as Edith L. Nordell. Nordell (in early directories shown as Nordahl) was born in Massachusetts about 1878, but who her father was is not yet known. Her mother Christina and brother Ernest, born about 1866, had come from Sweden to the United States in 1871. By 1892 she was living with her mother, brother, and another brother, Charles, in Worcester, and by 1910 she worked as a bookkeeper. By 1910 the Nordell siblings also owned 4 Congress Street, and in 1914 they acquired 1 Congress Street. By 1930 Edith and Ernest Nordell owned 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9 Congress Street and 7, 8, and 10 Crown Street, but their longtime home was at 4 Congress.

Edith Nordell leased 5 Congress Street to numerous families before 1935, when she defaulted on the mortgage for the property; in that year Worcester Institute for Savings sold the property to Armand A. Benoit, an insurance agent who had earlier lived in his parents' Worcester household. He owned 5 Congress Street until 1980, and he and his wife Pauline, born in Czechoslovakia, and their daughter Beverly lived in one of its units throughout that period of ownership. Benoit sold 5 Congress Street to landscaper David Besse in 1980.²

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

CD = city directory, HD = house directory, SD = Street DirectoryM = map, C = census, VR=vital records

1859CD Spaulding John E. sewing machines, Clark's blk, h. 5 Congress FIRST INSTANCE
Spaulding Lorenzo Q. carpenter, h. 5 Congress

1863CD Spaulding John E. carpenter, h. 5 Congress St.

1870 M #3 (1) & #5 J. Spaulding

¹ Born in Oxford in 1842, Burleigh served in a Massachusetts Civil War regiment and came to Worcester in 1866. He worked for three years in the office of Worcester architect Elbridge Boyden and by 1872 had begun to work as a "patent solicitor," though directories list him in both occupations in the late 1870s. See Charles Nutt, *A History of Worcester and Its People* (New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1919), 3:177.

² Worcester Institute for Savings to Armand A. Benoit, 9 April 1935, WCD 2637:311; Benoit to David Besse, 19 November 1980, WCD 7121:74.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

5 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

- 1870C 1) Spaulding John E ae 40 carpenter b VT no property, Elvira ae 31 b MA, Sarah L ae 6, Geo D ae 3, Herbert E 6 mos, Mary E Smith ae 26 MA milliner, Annie Armstead ae 31 dressmaker MA, Thomas Darlington ae 26 carpenter PA, domestic Hannah Seah ae 24 Ireland
2) Miranda Houghton ae 62 MA \$200 personal property, Sumner F. Dudley ae 16 b MA, Frederick A Dudley ae 14 b MA
- 1872SD 5, ho., Charles H. Burleigh, architect, 43 Park
5, ho., William Mayo, woolen mfr.
5, ho. Mrs. George H. Ward
- 1875C Mayo William, woolen manufacturer (at Dedham), house 5 Congress
- 1880C 5 Congress: 1) Mayo Wm ae 85 works in woolen mill b MA, wife Sarah 75 b MA, boarder Emely E Ward 49 at home b MA, boarder George Wm Ward 21 clerk in office, boarder Robert L Ward ae 19 bookkeeper
- 1885VR died prob Jan William Mayo ae 81 carder b Hardwick parents Peter & Berthia Smith Mayo b MA
- 1886M W. Mayo
- 1890HD Mayo Sarah D. widow 1
Ward Emily E. widow, b.
Estabrook Jane B. widow 2
Estabrook H.E. bookkeeper, b.
Wm Mayo hrs; bld. \$2800; 6715 ft. \$3400
- 1890VR died Sarah D (Dennis) Mayo ae 88 widow of William b Marblehead pars Erasmus and Sally Selman Dennis both of Marblehead
- 1896M Electa P. Thomson
- 1900HD Wentworth Wm. L. asst. mgr. 1
Powers Albert J. overseer 2
Corbin Mary S. Mrs. b.
- 1900C 5 Congress:
1) William Wentworth rents b Mar 1864 MA asst mgr grocer, wife Alice b Oct 1877 VT, dau Bernice b Sept 1894 MA
2) Albert J Powers b Sept 1837 MA foreman boot and shoe fact, widow rents, svt Mary P Corbin widow ae 43 b MA
Thompson Electa P. bld. \$2800, 6715 ft. \$3700
- 1910HD Smith David F Mr & Mrs 1 (CD: butcher, 621 Main)
Smith Marion E Miss b
Smith Richmond W b (CD: asst, Worcester Polytechnic Inst)
Smith Agnes F nurse b
Nordell Ernest R clerk 2 (CD: 56 Front –Brewer & Co) See 4 Congress St
Nordell Charles E mgr b (CD: 58 Front – Brewer Bldg)
Nordell Edith L bookkeeper b (CD: 56 Front)
Rose Lucy A Miss b
Thompson Electa P. (Jackson Tenn.), bld. \$2800; 6715 ft. \$3000
- 1911M E.L. Nordell

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

5 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

- 1912HD Buck Rollin J painter 1
 Buck Annie C teacher b
 Buck Sarah L stenographer b
 Bigelow Helen B, stenographer b
 Nordell Ernest L clerk 2
 Nordell Charles E mgr b
 Nordell Edith L bookkeeper b
 Rose Lucy A Miss b
Nordell Edith L. bld. \$2800; 6715 ft. \$3000
- 1922HD Rice Peter T Mr & Mrs (CD: ladderman, Ladder. No. 2, 32 Prescott)
 Rice Charles P b (CD: ins 390 Main, rm 618 – Slater Bldg)
 Mosley Ellen Mrs
Nordell Edith L. bld. \$6000; 6715 ft. \$3000
- 1930HD Kenney Arthur L (Gertrude N) salesman, 70 Central, Grovesnor C E Shoe Co
 Wheelock Ella J r widow Joel
 Russell William E (Anna M) toolmaker, 7 Summer, Mechanics Tool & Stamping Co
 Russell Marguerite A r
Nordell Edith L. bld. \$7000; 6715 ft. \$3000
- 1935 Deed 2637:311 4/9/1935 Worcester Institute for Savings to Armand A. Benoit, to secure payment of \$6500 mortgage (3225:530)
- 1940HD Schramm Geo (Susanne) draughtsman E J Cross Co, general contractors
 Stewart Bernice P steno Worcester Envelope Co
 Benoit Armand A (Pauline M) ins agt
 Bissonette Fredk (Delia) barber, Geo A Giguere
Benoit Armand A & Pauline M. bldg. \$5000; 6715 ft. \$2000
- 1950HD Cleveland Emily D Mrs
 Jette Regina Mrs CD: wid Aug O
 Brazeau Francois X r CD: rest wkr
 Benoit Armand A
 Pendergast Estelle A Mrs
Benoit Armand A & Pauline M. bldg. \$6800; 6715 ft. \$1700
- 1960HD Schoenfeldt Ruth S
 Dappmon Cath
 Court Dorothy E r
 Benoit Armand A
 Roberts Emerson F
 Burton Maria Mrs r
 Johnson Elsie
 Sheehan Ellen C
Benoit Armand A & Pauline M. garage \$800, house \$6000; 6715 ft. \$1700
- 1970HD Schoenfeldt Ruth S CD: sec NE Power
 Johnson Elsa E CD: cln Norton Co
 Benoit Armand A
 Docherty Emily Mrs CD: wid Jas J
 Kilmer Frances G Mrs
Benoit Armand A. gar \$800, hse \$6000; 6715 ft. \$1700

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- 1980 Deed 7121:74 11/19/1980 in consideration of \$31,500 Armand A Benoit to David Besse
- 1984HD Besse David, landscaper
 Bushnell David
 Prasch Sally
 Phillips Mark
 Passmore Betty
 Mansfield Linda
Besse David, apts, \$27,000; 6175 ft. \$13,000, gar \$2100

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- The Worcester Directory*. Worcester: Drew, Allis & Co., 1873-1919. Published annually
- The Worcester Directory*. Worcester: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1920-1938. Published annually.
- The Worcester Directory*. Boston, then Malden: R.L. Polk & Co., 1939- . Published annually.
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5 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1026
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from NE



View from NW

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980



View of garage from NW. The house pictured on the left is 1 Congress St; 5 Congress St. is barely visible on the right.

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

03-026-00027	Worcester North	V	WOR.1042
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 6 Congress Street

Historic Name: Oliver & Caroline Chase House

Uses: Present: Three-Family Residential

Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1852

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Dormers added to east and west sides

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1716 acres

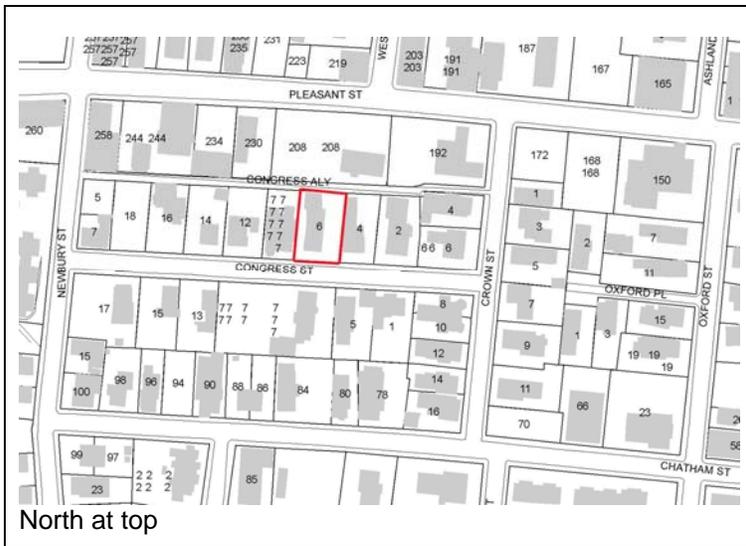
Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from SE

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

6 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1042
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Cyrus K. & Mary E. Hubbard House is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with front gable roof. The house is situated on the north side of Congress Street west of Crown Street in the center of a 0.1716-acre lot on the west slope of Crown Hill. It is sited close to the sidewalk behind a small bermed front yard demarcated by granite curbs with granite posts at the corners. Stone stairs lead from the sidewalk up to the entrance porch. A paved driveway follows the east lot line and terminates in the center of the parcel.

The wood-clapboard dwelling is ornamented with Greek Revival-style details, such as pronounced corner pilasters, tall Classical entablatures, and pedimented gables. Its later date, relative to this style period, is reflected in the paneled pilasters, one-story front porch with hollowed pillars and scroll-sawn braces, less-ponderous entrance architrave, and simple window surrounds. A traditional townhouse plan is fronted by a three bay façade containing an entrance on the west side. A two-story rear ell is in line with the west wall of the house and recessed from the east side and fronted with a two-story porch, a later addition. Gable dormers have been added to the center of the roof on both sides; the one on the west side projects over a two-story pavilion, which is probably a stair tower constructed when the house was converted to a multiple dwelling. More recently a story-and-a-half annex has been constructed on the extreme rear of the building where old maps indicate barns were once connected. There are no outbuildings presently.

The Cyrus K. & Mary E. Hubbard House is a distinctive example of mid-19th-century domestic architecture in the Crown Hill neighborhood and the city of Worcester. Its late Greek Revival-style design is largely intact. Situated at the core of the historic district, the house is contained within streetscapes containing houses of similar scale and design on Congress and Crown streets.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

6 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

The house at 6 Congress Street, before about 1890 numbered 8 Congress Street, was built around 1851 for fancy box maker Oliver Chase and his family. That year Chase had bought two lots on the north side of Congress Street from Joseph H. Warren, who was listed in the city directory that year as a [leather] cutter living on Elm Street. By 1858 Oliver Chase had died leaving his widow, Caroline, and young son, Henry, alone in the house. Caroline's brother, stone cutter Albert G. Mann, effected the transfer of the property from ten-year-old Henry, identified as his father's heir, to the widow, yet she and her son immediately moved into Mann's home on Southbridge Street, where their mother also lived. The 6 Congress Street house was rented to unknown parties.

By 1864 fruit and confectionary dealer Cyrus K. Hubbard was a tenant in the house. He had been born in the nearby town of Holden about 1824. In 1853 Hubbard and his wife Mary E. Rice Hubbard, whom he married in Holden in 1849, were living on Union Street in Worcester. Hubbard was then working as a machinist; later in the 1850s he was employed as a boot treer. The couple's only child, Martena Eldora, was born about 1854. By 1861 Cyrus Hubbard had opened his fruit and confectionary store at 148 ½ Main Street. In 1862 Hubbard and his family lived on Main Street, just before they moved to 6 Congress Street. In 1866 Hubbard was partners with Alexander J. Warfield, who lived across from him at 7 Congress Street, in a wholesale fruit and vegetable business.

In 1865 Caroline Chase sold the house and two lots to Mary E. Bridges for \$5,000. The 1870 census lists the families of Hubbard and Sumner Bridges in separate households in the house. By then Hubbard was partners with H. M. Rice in his fruit and confectionary business and had added an "eating house" to his business, then at 3 Pleasant Street. Born about 1813 in nearby Leicester, Sumner Bridges worked as a truckman. His second wife, Mary E. Patch Rice, was a Worcester native whose first husband, Enoch P. Rice, had died three years before. In 1872 the Bridges household included Mary's sons John Green Rice, born in 1848, and Josiah Alfred Rice, born in 1852. John Rice worked as an organ trimmer, while his brother was a messenger for Mechanics National Bank. Whether Hubbard was related by marriage to his 1870 business partner or to Mary Bridges is not yet known.

By 1872 Hubbard had moved out of the Congress Street House, probably to a house he owned on Dix Street in 1880. He had become a real estate agent with an office at 460 Main Street and advertisements in the city directory. Sumner and Mary Bridges remained at 8 Congress with Josiah Rice, and his wife and young daughter; Hubbard's unit was rented to boot cutter Albert J. Powers and a housekeeper. Though no death record has been located for him in Massachusetts, Sumner Bridges died by 1890, for his wife Mary is listed as a widow in the city directory of that year. In 1890 Mary E. Bridges subdivided the vacant lot west of her house into two parts and sold one to trunk manufacturer Hiram C. Barnard and the other to clothing merchant George R. Bliss. They went on to build the double house at 8-10 Congress, at which time the number of the Bridges house was changed to 6 Congress. By 1900 Mary Bridges had moved to Southbridge, but she continued to own 6 Congress and rent it through 1910. In the latter year the families of commercial twine salesman Lyman E. Hastings and provision dealer Fred W. Haskell rented the house, and by 1912 Mary Bridges had sold 6 Congress to Hastings' son Foster Lyman Haskell. Born in West Boylston about 1874, Foster L. Haskell trained as an architect and was living in New York State, by 1900 in the Bronx and by 1912 in Hastings-on-Hudson.

Six Congress Street changed hands several times in the mid-1910s and was owned by Nellie D. Nutting, wife of George C. Nutting, by 1917. In 1920 George Nutting, a New Hampshire native then seventy-two years old, lived in the house with his wife and his widowed mother-in-law, Frances Dodge, whose husband Asa, a farmer, died in Sutton in 1895. Nutting rented space to two families who were probably related—that of Otis Woodward, a salesman who had come to the United States from Nova Scotia in 1895, and that of Thomas Keefe. Woodward's wife Ida was born in Ohio of New Hampshire-born parents about 1859; Keefe's wife Lillian, who was a restaurant assistant manager, was born about 1861 in Ohio of parents from New Hampshire. They were probably sisters. Two roomers—Harriet Blodgett, a bookkeeper for the American Red Cross, and the widow Belle Van Wagoner—also lived at 6 Congress in the early 1920s.

In 1925 Nellie Nutting sold the 6 Congress property to the siblings Ernest R. and Edith L. Nordell.¹ Born in Sweden about 1866, Ernest Nordell (in early directories shown as Nordahl) came to the United States when he was five years old. By 1892 he was living with his widowed mother Christina and his siblings Charles and Edith in Worcester, and by 1903 he worked as a sawyer. By 1910 the Nordell siblings owned 5 Congress Street, and in 1914 they acquired 1 Congress Street. By 1930 he and his sister

¹ Nellie D. Nutting to Ernest R. Nordell and Edith L. Nordell, 3 June 1925, WCD 2371:257.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

6 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Edith 1, 4, 6, 7, and 9 Congress Street and 7, 8, and 10 Crown Street; their longtime home was 4 Congress Street. The Nordells rented 6 Congress Street to numerous short-term tenants until 1950, when Charles Nordell, the administrator of his sister Edith's estate, sold the property to Dovie M. Karin.² In 1969 Karin sold 6 Congress Street to Ramon Raymond P. Tonelli, who sold it by 1984 to Allen R. Padwa and Alice A. Caldwell.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

CD = city directory, HD = house directory, SD = street directory, M = map, C = census, VR=vital records

- 1851 Deed 479:422 8/4/1851 Joseph H. Warren to Oliver Chase
- 1854CD Chase, Oliver, fancy box maker, 245 Main, h. Congress
- 1858 Deed 596:620 in consideration of \$2000 Henry M. Chase, heir of Oliver Chase, dec'd to Albert G. Mann, 2 lots on north side of Congress St [Albert G. Mann was Caroline Chase's brother.]
- 1858 Deed 596:622 5/2/1858 Albert G. Mann to Caroline Chase, 2 lots on north side of Congress St, \$2000
- 1859CD Chase Mrs Oliver, h. 8 Congress
Mann Albert G. stone cutter at Junc., h. 85 Southbridge
- 1860C Albert G. Mann, 33, master stone cutter, \$3,000/\$2,500, b. NH
Julia Mann, 28, keeping house, b. NH
Caroline Chase, 37, \$5,000/\$1,500, b. NH
Henry M. Chase, 12, b. MA
Eliza Mann, 60, none, b. NH
- 1864CD Hubbard Cyrus K. h. 8 Congress
- 1853CD Hubbard Cyrus K. machinist at Court mill, bds 5 Union FIRST RECORD
 - 1859CD Hubbard Cyrus K. boottreer h. 2 Carroll
 - 1861CD Hubbard Cyrus K. fruit & confectionery, 148 ½ Main, h. 10 Chandler
 - 1862CD Hubbard Cyrus K. fruit & confectionery, 148 ½ Main, h. 300 ½ Main
 - 1860C Cyrus K Hubbard ae 38 clerk no property listed b MA, Mary E Hubbard ae 35 b MA, Martena E Hubbard ae 6 b MA
- 1865 Deed 702:627 7/1/1865 in consideration of \$5,000 Caroline Chase to Mary E. Bridges
- 1865CD Hubbard Cyrus K, fruit & confectionery, 28 Front, h. 8 Congress
Bridges Sumner, truckman, h. 3 Belknap
- 1867CD Hubbard Cyrus K, fruit & confectionery, 3 Pleasant, h. 8 Congress
Bridges Sumner, truckman, h. 8 Congress
- 1870M #8 C,K. Hubbard
- 1870C 1) Sumner Bridges ae 57 truckman \$6000 real/\$500 pers b MA, wife Mary E ae 43, John Rice 21 carpenter b MA, G Alfred Rice 17 bank clerk
2) Hubbard Cyrus K ae 46 retail fruit dealer \$1000 real/\$2000 personal prop b MA, Mary E ae 44, Martena 16, Cowden Philena ae 22 works for photograph artist b MA
- o 1847VR mar 12 July Enoch P Rice ae 25 farmer to Mary E Patch ae 20

² Charles E. Nordell, administrator, to Dovie M. Karin, trustee, 10 November 1950, WCD 3299:548-49.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

6 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

- o 1848VR born 22 Sept John Green Rice pars Enoch T & Mary E, Main St, Worcester, he a farmer
- o 1852VR born 17 Aug Josiah Alfred Rice pars Enoch P Rice farmer b NH & Mary E Rice b MA
- o 1854VR died 30 Apr Enoch P Rice ae 32 b Lovell? Farmer of consumption no pars listed
- o 1857VR married 2 Apr Sumner Bridges b Leicester res Worcester ae 44 const of highways pars Martin and Mariah Bridges, his 2d m, to Mary E Rice ae 31 b/res Worcester pars Wm W & Sarah W Patch, her 2d m

- 1872SD 8, ho. Sumner Bridges, truckman
 8, bds. J.A. Rice, messenger, Mechanics National Bank, 311 Main
 8, bds., John G. Rice, organ trimmer, 17 Hermon
 8, ho., Albert J. Powers, boot cutter 68 High
 1880C **Dix Street:** Cyrus K Hubbard 57 real estate agent, wife Mary E 55, dau Martha E 25, boarder
 1900VR died 11 Apr Cyrus K Hubbard ae 77 b and bur Holden, res and d Worcester, pars Silas M Hubbard and Abigail Allen of Holden
 1872VR married 17 Sept John G Rice ae 24 organ maker b Worcester pars Enoch P & Mary E Rice to Emma J Estey ae 21 b VT
- 1880C 8 Congress: Sumner Bridges ae 67, wife Mary E 54, boarder Josiah H Rice ae 27 bookkeeper, wife Mary E 23, dau Susie 1, boarder Sofira Davis ae 64
- 1886M #8 S. Bridge
- 1890HD listed as #8
 Rice Josiah A. bookkeeper 1
 Bridges Mary E. widow, b.
 Powers Albert J. foreman 2
 Pierce Mary S. housekeeper, b.
Mary E. Bridges, blds. \$2200; 12828 ft. \$5800
- 1896M Mary E. Bridges
- 1900HD Whitmore E.W. Mr. & Mrs. 1
 Allen Walter F. Mr. & Mrs. 2
Bridges Mary E. [non-resident], blds. \$2200; 7476 ft. \$4100
- 1910HD Haskell Fred W Mr & Mrs 1 (CD: Regan & Haskell, provisions 72 Green)
 Hastings Lyman E Mr & Mrs 2 salesman
Bridges Mary E. (Southbridge), blds.. \$2200; 7476 ft. \$3500 [do not find her in census in W or Southbridge after 1880]
- 1910C 6 Congress:
 1) Hastings Lyman E ae 72 b MA commercial traveler twines, wife Susannah ae 68
 2) Vaughan Walter S ae 63 b MA driver grocery wagon, wife Sarah F ae 58 MA, dau Haskell Estelle V ae 37 b MA, son-in-law Haskell Fred W ae 43 b VT provision dealer, grandchildren Frederic V ae 6, Mildred E ae 5, Roger W 3, Alice R 6 mo, niece Blackman Ella M ae 22 dressmaker store, servant Adaman Katie ae 23 b Russia "Lettish" (Latvia?) emig 1909,
- 1911M F.L. Hastings
- 1912HD Sheffield Frank B Mr & Mrs 1
 Sheffield Frank I student b
 Hastings Lyman E Mr & Mrs 2
 Hall Jennie M Miss b
Hastings Foster Lyman (Hastings-on-Hudson NY), blds. \$2200; 6476 ft. \$3500

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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6 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

1880C West Boylston: Hastings Foster L ae 6 in hh father Lyman E Hastings ae 43 shoe mfr, wife Susannah F 39, another son Homer F ae 10

1900C Chandler St Worcester: Lyman Hastings b May 1837 MA traveling salesman, wife Susannah F b Apr 1841 MA, son Homer b Feb 1870 MA dry goods clerk

1920C Hastings-on-Hudson NY Hastings Foster L ae 46 owns b MA architect, wife Augusta ae 40 b NY pars Germany, children Florence ae 14 b NY, Marian ae 12 b NY, father Lyman E ae 82 b MA, mother-in-law Schaeffel Katherine ae 72 widow b Baden Germany [Hastings in Bronx 1900, Westchester Co 1910]

1917 Deed no ref 2/23/1917 Edward D. Houstin to Simeon Lagasse

1917 Deed 2125:578 3/2/1917 Simeon Lagasse to Nellie D. Nutting

1918HD Nutting George C Mr & Mrs
Dodge Frances A Mrs b
Woodward Otis Mr & Mrs
Woodward Guy F b
O'Keefe Thomas E
Nutting Nellie D, blds \$2200; 7476 ft. \$3500; also owns 27 Florence St.

1920C 6 Congress:
1) Nutting George C ae 72 owns b NH no occup, wife Nellie D ae 59 b MA, mother-in-law Dodge Frances A ae 82 widow b MA
2) Woodward Otis ae 57 rents b Nova Scotia emig 1895 salesman market wife Ida ae 61 b OH pars NH, son Guy ae 21 b MA
3) Keefe Thomas ae 68 rents b MA pars Ire no occup, wife Lillian ae 57 b OH pars NH asst mgr restaurant, roomer Harriet Blodgett ae 51 b MA bookkeeper Red Cross office

1897VR Clinton: married 20 May Otis Woodward ae 35 b Nova Scotia res Clinton clerk pars William H & Amelia Illsby to Maria Brais ae 26 milliner b Roxen Falls Canada res Clinton pars Ciryale & Melissa

1922HD Nutting George C Mr & Mrs
Dodge Frances A Mrs b (CD: widow Asa P) [[1895VR Sutton Asa P Dodge d ae 59 farmerb/res Sutton]
Woodward Otis Mr & Mrs (CD: clerk 629 Main – Worcester Market)
Woodward Guy F b (CD: clerk 66 Faraday – Worcester Electric Light Co)
Blodgett Harriet b (CD: bookkeeper Am Red Cross, 476 Main)
Van Wagoner Belle Mrs (CD: widow George, clerk 516 Main – Bedell Co. coats & suits)
Nutting Nellie D, blds \$4700; 7476 ft. \$3500

1925 Deed 2371:257 6/3/1925 Nellie D. Nutting to Ernest R. Nordell & Edith L. Nordell

1930HD Cloutier Bella Mrs
Cloutier Blanche A r (CD: export dir, 475 Shrewsbury, Stevens Walden Tool Mfg Co
Cloutier Irene C. (CD: married Wm Prisk rem to Norwich CT (1931))
Nordell Ernest R. & Edith L. bldg. \$5700; 7476 ft. \$3500; also own 1, 4, 7 & 9 Congress & 7, 8 & 10 Crown

1940HD Wilson Arthur R
Wilson Byron
Wilson Eliz
Anderson Frank O (CD: (Hilma C) packer, Norton Co)
Anderson Clifford F A r (CD: student)
Anderson Ethel A (CD: teacher)
Hogan Mary A Mrs
Nordell, Ernest R & Edith L & Chas E. \$5000; 7476 ft. \$2300; also owns 4 Congress & 7 Crown

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6 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

- 1950HD Ethier Frank X (CD: (Lillian) taxi driver)
Ethier Robt E r (CD: USA)
Sparks Russell r
Hill Isaac W (CD: (Olive M) porter C.T. Sherer Co (dept store 50 Front))
Harrison Lawrence W (CD: (Marion O) fireman)
Nordell, Ernest R & Edith L & Chas E. \$4700; 7476 ft. \$1800; also owns 4 Congress & 7 Crown
- 1950 Deed 3299:548 & 549 11/10/1950 Charles E. Nordell, admr estate of Edith L. Nordell to Dovie M. Karin, tr. For Rudolph W. Karin Jr.
- 1960HD Rice Charles R (CD: (Victoria M) ship clk Ideal Paper Supply)
Floyd Henry T (CD: (Alice M))
Karin Dovie M trus for Rudolph W, barn \$200, house \$4500; 7476 ft. \$1800
Karin Rudolph O (Dovie) lodging house 28 Cedar h 53 Chatham
- 1969 Deed 4929:535 3/14/1969 Dovie M. Karin, tr. For Rudolph W. Karin Jr to Ramon Raymond P. Tonelli, 53 Suffolk St.
- 1970HD Roman John J
Tonisilli Anthony
DeLeon Mary
Tonelli Ramon Raymond P. barn \$200, hse \$4500; 7476 ft; \$1800
- 1984HD Caldwell Alice A
Padiva Allen
Chetkowski John
Padwa Allen R & Caldwell Alice A. hse \$24,200; 7476 ft. \$9200, barn w/ bsmt \$1200

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

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6 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from SE



View form SW

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

CO-NDO-00060 Worcester North V WOR.1037 WOR.1038

NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (neighborhood or village):
Crown Hill

Address: 7 Congress Street

Historic Name: Alexander J. & Lucinda Warfield House (7)
John J. Pope Tenant House (9)

Uses: Present: Condominium Apartments

Original: Multi-Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1851 (7) & 1908 (9)

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (with dates):
Rear addition, mid-20th-century
Wood shingle siding added
Window sash replaced

Condition: good

Moved: no yes Date:

Acreage: 0.4600 acres

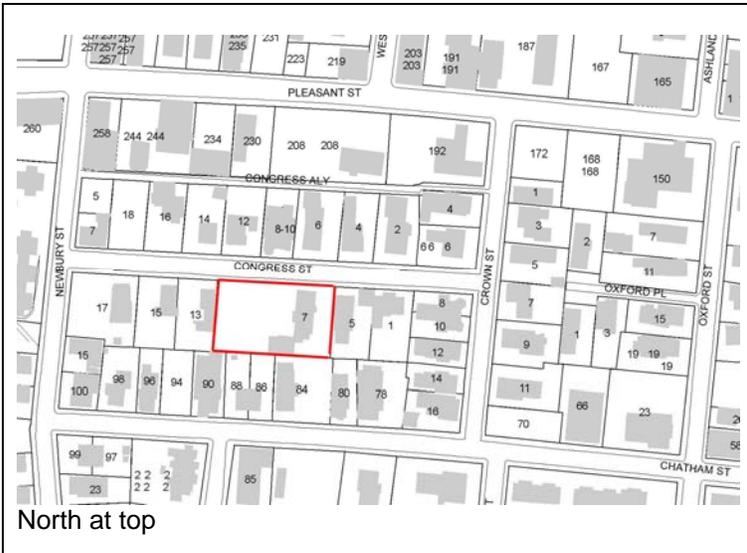
Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from NW

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (month / year): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

7 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1037 WOR.1038
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Alexander J. & Lucinda Warfield House (7 Congress St.) is a two-story wood frame single dwelling with front gable roof. The house is situated on the south side of Congress Street west of Crown Street at the east side of a 0.4600-acre double parcel on the west slope of Crown Hill that also contains the lot once associated with 11 Congress Street on the west. (House at 11 Congress Street no longer exists.) The house is sited close to the sidewalk behind a small front yard elevated behind a granite slab retaining wall. The later two-story wood frame, front gable roof John J. Pope Tenant House (9 Congress St.) is sited west and behind the house with a deep front lawn reaching out to the street. The lawn extends west from the houses terminating at a large paved parking lot at the west side of the parcel.

7 Congress Street

Wood shingles now cover original wood clapboard siding on the Alexander J. & Lucinda Warfield House. The dwelling is ornamented with Greek Revival-style details, such as pronounced corner pilasters, tall Classical entablatures, and pedimented gables. A traditional townhouse plan is fronted by a three bay façade containing an entrance on the west side. A one-story porch with a tall entablature supported by pillars spans the front façade. A two-story beveled-corner bay window is centered on the east side. There likely was a two-story rear ell in line with the west wall of the house and recessed from the east side and fronted with a porch; it has been consumed by a large rear extension built to accommodate growing numbers of apartments. A two-story box bay window and numerous dormers have been added in later years. Window sash have been replaced.

9 Congress Street

Wood-shingles are original on the John J. Pope Tenant House, which is located on the site of a previous barn, and possibly incorporates portions of that earlier building. The three-bay front façade echoes that on the Warfield house, as well as on many other houses on Congress Street. The one story porch is a recent replacement of what probably was a similar feature. The two-story wing attached to the west side of the house is supported by piers; the second story appears to have been added. A large dormer occupies the west side of the roof.

The Alexander J. & Lucinda Warfield House (7 Congress) is a distinctive example of mid-19th-century domestic architecture in the Crown Hill neighborhood and the city of Worcester. Its late Greek Revival-style design is largely intact. The John J. Pope Tenant House (9 Congress) is essentially intact to its early 20th-century construction date. Situated at the core of the historic district, the houses are within streetscapes containing houses of similar scale and design on Congress and Crown streets.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and

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WORCESTER

7 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

The house at 7 Congress Street was built about 1851 for the fruit dealer Alexander J. Warfield. Born in the western Massachusetts hill town of Heath about 1824, at some point before 1853 Warfield married Lucinda Spurr of Colrain, adjacent to Heath, and he was living in Worcester probably by 1848. In 1850 Warfield was working as a boot crimper and boarding on Bridge Street. By 1851, still a boot worker, Warfield had moved to this house at 7 Congress Street, and there the couple's son Frank Hurlburt Warfield was born in 1853. By 1856 Warfield had started a fruit and vegetable business on Front Street, and by 1859 he had become partners with Edwin A. Fawcett and moved the store to 250 Main Street. Seven years later Warfield and Cyrus K. Hubbard, who by then lived across from him at 6 Congress Street, ran a short-lived wholesale produce partnership at 1 City Hall, and by 1868 he was in business with Edward F. Harrington.

The 1870 census lists Warfield as owning \$20,000 in real property and \$1000 in personal estate. By the 1880s, and perhaps earlier, he owned 84 Chatham Street, on the adjacent lot south of his Congress Street property, and his occupation is shown as "rents houses" in the 1880 census. In 1870 Warfield, his wife, and their son Frank lived at 7 Congress with a Vermont-born domestic servant and rented part of the house to the family of wire goods manufacturer Jonah N. Bigelow, his wife Julia, and their ten-year-old son Charles. The Warfields remained at 7 Congress Street through about 1883. He is not listed in most Worcester directories after that date, though four years after the death of his wife Lucinda in Boylston in 1894 he married Mary E. Sadler Rice of Georgetown in Worcester, and in 1900, just two years later, he and his wife are shown as one of three families living at 7 Congress Street. Warfield died in Worcester in April 1900. The 1900 census shows his widow Mary, her daughter Alice Rice, and two boarders living at 7 Congress Street; John J. Pope, his wife Mary Emma, and his daughter Sarah were renting the second floor of the house.

Born in Massachusetts in 1862, John J. Pope was an optician with offices at 413 Main Street in 1910. By that year the house was owned by his wife Mary, and the Popes and their daughter occupied the first floor. They rented the second floor to Thomas E. Keefe, a brewery foreman born in Massachusetts about 1850, his wife Lillian, and his twenty-eight-year-old stepdaughter Charlotte Atwood, a dry goods store clerk. A third family, the public school teacher Fanny Williams and her niece Minnie Williams, occupied a third apartment. By 1908 an outbuilding located off the southeast corner of the house was renovated or rebuilt as a small rental cottage. The first tenant was widow Alice M. Buckley and her son, Charles. The 1910 house directory identifies the residents as William E. Blake, manager of McComb, Powers & Swenson, Inc., a commercial painting firm at 84 Foster Street, his wife, Lizzie, and two children, Charlvine and John. The 1911 map shows the two houses on separate parcels, with 7 Congress owned by Mary E. Pope and the new lot containing 9 Congress owned by John J. Pope.

By 1920 John J. Pope had died, and Mary Pope remained in the house, as did the Williamses; automobile top maker, Homer H. Gage and his daughter Mildred, a school teacher in Northboro, lived in the cottage next door. Two years later Mary Pope sold the Congress Street property to the siblings Ernest R. and Edith L. Nordell.¹ Born in Sweden about 1866, Ernest Nordell (in early directories shown as Nordahl) came to the United States when he was five years old. By 1892 he was living with his widowed mother Christina and his siblings Charles and Edith in Worcester, and by 1903 he worked as a sawyer. By 1910 Ernest R. and Edith L. Nordell owned 5 Congress Street, and in 1914 they acquired 1 Congress Street. By 1930 they owned 1, 4, 6, 7, and 9 Congress Street and 7, 8, and 10 Crown Street; their longtime home was 4 Congress Street.

The Nordells rented 7 and 9 Congress through at least 1930. In 1940 Fred E. Wheeler owned the houses and rented the house at 7 Congress to three families, including the grocer Emil Poti, who ran the Italo-American Emporium on Shrewsbury Street.

¹ Nellie D. Nutting to Ernest R. Nordell and Edith L. Nordell, 3 June 1925, WCD 2371:257.

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7 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Born in Massachusetts about 1914, Poti was the son of Vincent Poti, who ran a music store in Worcester and had come to the United States from Italy in either 1896 or 1898. Vincent Poti's wife Annuziata emigrated in 1903. The 9 Congress Street cottage was rented to Frank H. Washburn and his family; he sold orthopedic appliances from a store at 25 Austin Street.

By 1950 7 and 9 Congress Street were owned by Ivan Abadijeff, who came to the United States from his native Belgium in 1916 and was a draftsman at piano manufacturer Leland-Gifford Company. He owned the two buildings and lots for the next 20 years, living with his family at 7 Congress. The house at 7 Congress was recorded as vacant in 1968 and 1970 house directories, suggesting abandonment, which likely is what led to its acquisition by the Worcester Cooperation Council soon after. The house now contains condominium apartments and the cottage likewise. Sometime during this period, the two lots were recombined and adjoining lot at 11 Congress was incorporated, whether the house thereon was demolished at that time or had been destroyed previously is not known.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

CD = city directory, HD = house directory, M = map, C = census, VR=vital records

- 1851CD Warfield Alex J. boot crimper, h Congress FIRST INSTANCE
 1848CD Warfield Alexander Jr. [sic] attendant at hospital
 1849CD Warfield Alexander, bds 1 Arch
 1850CD Warfield Alex. J. boot crimper, bds Bridge
- 1856CD Warfield Alex J. fruit & vegetables, 26 Front, h. 7 Congress
- 1859CD Warfield Alex J. (Fawcett & W) h 7 Congress
- 1866CD Warfield (Alex J.) & Hubbard (Cyrus K.) wholesale dealers in vegetables and fruit, 1 City Hall, h. 7 Congress
- 1867CD Warefield Alex J. wholesale dealer in vegetables and fruit, 14 Front, h. 7 Congress
- 1868CD Warfield (Alex J) & Harrington (Edward F.) wholesale dealers in vegetables & fruit, 327 Main, h. 7 Congress
- 1870M A.J. Warfield
- 1872SD 7, ho., Jonah H. Bigelow, (Howe, Bigelow & Co.), wire goods mfr., 179 Main
 7, ho. Alex. J. Warfield, eating house, 34 Front
- 1883 Warfield Alex J. h. 7 Congress [last entry]
- 1886M A.J. Warfield [by 1886 he owned 84 Chatham, behind this house, through at least 1900]
- 1890HD Whitmore E.W. accountant 1
 Dresser N.F. Mrs. dressmkr. 2
 Palmer Olive A. widow, b.
 Boynton Odell, clerk, b.
A.J. Warfield, blds. \$3000; 11118 ft. \$4700
- 1896M A.J. Warfield
- 1900HD Warfield Alex. J. Mr. & Mrs. 1
 Rice Alice G. Moss. b.
 Pope John J. Mr. & Mrs. 2
Warfield, Alexander J. blds. \$3000; 11118 ft. \$5300 (also owns two lots at 84 Chatham St.)

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- 1900C 7 Congress:
 1) Mary E Warfield b Aug 1843 ME widow, dau Alice Rice b Jan 1883 MA, boarder Paul Lepoids b May 1875 RI father France mother Holland watchmaker, roomer Walter Chamberlain b Jan 1882 MA
 2) John J Pope b Aug 1862 MA "op.," wife M. Emma b Mar 1868 NH, dau Serah L b Mar 1895 NH
- 1908HD 9 Buckley Alice M Mrs FIRST INSTANCE
 Buckley Charles W b
- 1910HD 7 Pope John J Mr & Mrs 1 (CD: optician, 413 Main)
 O'Keefe Thomas E Mr & Mrs 2 (CD: barman, Bowler Bros. Ltd., brewers, Quinsigamond av c Lafayette)
 Williams Fannie A Miss 3(CD: teacher, Chandler St school)
 Williams Minnie A Miss b
Pope Mary E. blds. \$3300; 7268 ft. \$3000
- 9 Blake Willard E Mr & Mrs (manager, McComb, Powers & Swenson, Inc., painters, 84 Foster)
 Blake Charlivine C Miss b
Pope John J. bld. \$1700; 3850 ft. \$1400
- 1910C 7 Congress:
 1) Fanny A Williams ae 52 b MA public school teacher, niece Minnie A b IL no occup
 2) Thomas E Keefe ae 60 b MA foreman brewery, wife Lillian J ae 49 b OH pars VT, stepdaughter Charlotte M Atwood ae 28 b NY clerk dry goods store
 3) John J Pope ae 48 b NH owns proprietor optical store, wife Mary E ae 42 NH, dau Saarah L ae 15 b NH
- 1911M 7 M.E. Pope
 9 J.J. Pope
- 1920C 7 Congress:
 1) Mary E Pope owns ae 51 widow
 2) Frank B. Holden ae 71 rents b MA no occup, wife Isabel? ae 61 b NH, son Bardford B ae 27 b MA optometrist, roomer Edith S Perry ae 46 divorced b MA stenographer wholesale grocery
 3) Fannie Williams ae 62 rents teacher grade school, niece Minnie A Williams ae 52 b IL no occup
- 9 Congress:
 1) Charles E. Hutchins ae 40 rents b MA high school teacher, wife Bell ae 43 b 61, son Charles C ae 20, son Edwin J ae 18
- 1922HD 7 Pratt William H Mr & Mrs (CD: clerk of committee, 25 City Hall)
 Perry Edith S b (CD: sec 203 Summer – E.T. Smith Co., wholesale grocers)
 Holden Frank B Mr & Mrs
 Williams Fannie A (CD: teacher, Chandler St school)
 Williams Minnie A b
Pope Mary E. blds. \$5500; 7268 ft. \$3000; also owns 9 Congress St
- 9 Gage Homer H (CD: auto top maker)
 Gage Mildred V b (CD: teacher, Northboro)
Pope Mary E. bld. \$2500; 3864 ft. \$1400
- 1922M 7 E.L. & E.R. Nordell
 9 E.L. & E.R. Nordell

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- 1930HD 7 Amadon Winfield
Amadon Dorothy A r
Amadon Earl W r
Culver Anna Mrs
Culver Bertha M r (CD: musician)
Nicholson Sarah E (CD: social worker)
Nicholson Maria Mrs r (CD: widow John)
Nordell Ernest R. & Edith L. bldg. \$6200; 7254 ft. \$3000; also own 1, 4, 6 & 9 Congress & 7, 8 & 10 Crown
9 vacant
Nordell Ernest R. & Edith L. bldg. \$3500; 3864 ft. \$1400; also own 1, 4, 6 & 7 Congress & 7, 8 & 10 Crown
- 1940HD 7 Poti Annunziata S Mrs (CD: widow Vincent S)
Poti Emil V r (CD: Italo-American Emporium, variety)
Poti Yole M r (CD: teacher)
Seguin Roland A (CD: (Rhea) grocer 37 Newbury)
Harrison Marion E Mrs (CD: wid Wm J, clerk, Heald Machine Co)
Harrison Chas r
Harrison Dorothy r (CD: clerk, Heald Machine Co)
Harrison Marion E r) CD: bookkeeper
Wheeler Fred E. bldg. \$5000; 7254 ft. \$2000; also owns 9 Congress
9 Washburn Frank H jr (Dora E) Washburn's orthopedic appliances 25 Austin
Wheeler Fred E. bldg. \$2800; 3864 ft. \$1000; also owns 7 Congress
- 1950HD 7 Abadjieff Ivan (CD: eng Leland-Gifford Co machinery mfrs)
Seguin Roland A
Abadjieff Ivan V bldg \$5500; 725 4 ft. \$1800; also owns 9 Congress
9 Washburn Frank H jr (CD: (Dora E) Washburn's)
Washburn Elaine r
Abadjieff Ivan V bldg 3300; 3864 ft. \$1000; also owns 7 Congress
- 1960HD 7 Abadijeff Ivan
Abadjieff Ivan V bldg \$5500; 7254 ft. \$1800; also owns 9 Congress
9 Manzi Frank A (CD: (Anne G) mach DeWalt Mach & Eng)
Mott Ronald E r (CD:)(Carol A) floor waxer Clear Seal)
Manzi Frank A jr (CD: clk Worc Telegram & Gaz
Abadjieff Ivan V house 3000; 3864 ft. \$1000; also owns 7 Congress
- 1970HD 7 vacant (also in 1968)
Abadjieff Ivan V bldg \$5500; 7254 ft. \$1800; also owns 9 Congress
9 Manzi Frank A
Abadjieff Ivan V house 3000; 3864 ft. \$1000; also owns 7 Congress
- 1979 7 Monro Jonathan P
Mattern Penni Mrs
Omasta Sidney
Worcester Cooperation Council Inc.
- 1984 7 Blevins Pengwynne P
Moreale David
Beltger Cynthia
Conway Vincent D jr
Nelson Sephan

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- Sondrini Denise
Blevins Pengwynne P condo \$32,900; \$3000
Conway Vincent D jr. condo \$27,300; \$2600
Mattern Penny G & Omasta Edward S. condo \$32,100; \$3000
 9 Washburn Chas
Washburn Charles J & Anthes Frances M. condo \$38,000; \$3500

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7 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from NW. 7 Congress on left, 8 Congress on right



View of 7 Congress from NE

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View of 9 Congress from N

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

03-026-007-2

Worcester
North

V

WOR.1043

NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 8-10 Congress Street

Historic Name: Hiram E. & Mabel Barnard House (#8)
George R. & Anna Bliss House (#10)

Uses: Present: Condominium Apartments

Original: Single-Family Residential Duplex

Date of Construction: 1891

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Queen Anne

Architect/Builder: Barker & Nourse, architect

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shingle

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
none

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.0120

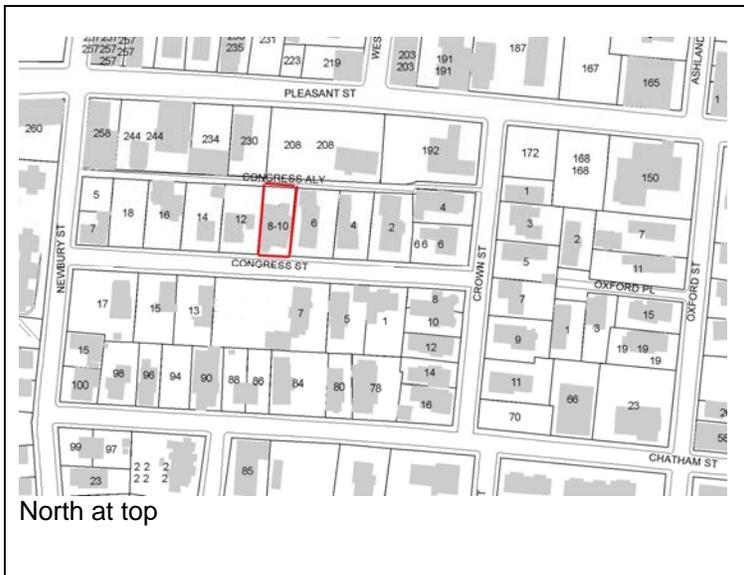
Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from SW

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

8-10 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The double house built for Hiram E. & Mabel Barnard (#8) and George R. & Anna Bliss (#10) is a two-story wood frame, hipped-roof building designed to appear as a large single family dwelling. The design was provided by the Worcester architectural firm, Barker & Nourse. The house is situated on the north side of Congress Street west of Crown Street in the center of a 0.0120 - acre lot on the west slope of Crown Hill. It is sited close to the sidewalk behind a small bermed front yard with granite slab retaining wall and granite posts demarcating the corners of the lot. Stone stairs lead from the sidewalk up to the front porch; a field stone retaining wall runs along the west lot line elevating the house site about four feet above the level of the neighboring parcel. Spaces on the sides of the house are limited and there is a small rear yard, There is no driveway.

The house is sided with a variety of shingle patterns: square-edged in regular coursing on the main two-story body of the house; beveled cornered shingles in the attic dormers, cut so they present an hexagonal pattern; and diamond patterned on the sides of the round tower engaged to the southeast corner of the house—a pent roof dividing the first and second stories of the tower has scalloped or rounded shingles. Roof edges are simple and unembellished unlike the older houses on the street. The front façade contains two separate entrances in the center of the first story, the only hint of the house being a duplex. The original multi-paneled doors with plate-glass windows survive flanked by a two-story box bay window on the west side and the aforementioned tower on the east side. A deep porch abuts but does not encompass the tower on the east side and terminates at a summer-house-like projection on the southwest corner that contains the lower level of the box bay window. The hipped porch roof is supported by turned posts typical of Queen Anne design with scrolled braces at the top giving the effect of capitals; a simple railing with tightly-spaced square balusters runs between the posts. There are windows over the doors on the second story and the whole is surmounted by a wide gable dormer with a pair of windows separated by a wood panel. A cross-gable pavilions centered on both the east and west walls are topped by similar dormers. A two-story kitchen wing is incorporated into the rear of the building's footprint. There are no outbuildings presently.

The double house built for Hiram E. & Mabel Barnard (#8) and George R. & Anna Bliss (#10) is an unusual and distinctive example of Queen Anne-style domestic architecture in the Crown Hill neighborhood . As a double house it represents a later period of development where land use intensified and the population density increased. Situated at the core of the historic district, the house is contained within streetscapes with houses of similar scale and design.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and

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8-10 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

The double house numbered 8-10 Congress Street stands on one of two lots sold in 1865 to Mary E. Bridges by Caroline Chase, the widow of box manufacturer Oliver Chase, who died in 1855 at the age of forty-four. Oliver Chase had acquired the lots on the north side of Congress Street in 1851 from the bootmaker Joseph H. Warren. The Chases built a house on the eastern lot (6 Congress). By 1860 Caroline Chase was living with her son Henry Mann Chase (born in Paxton, her husband's native place, in 1848) in her brother Albert G. Mann's Worcester household, and the census for that year shows her in possession of five thousand dollars of real property and one thousand dollars in personal estate. In 1858 she was renting the house to fruit and confection dealer Cyrus K. Hubbard. After the 1865 purchase, Mary E. Bridges moved into the house with her family. She was the wife of Sumner Bridges, who was born about 1813 in Leicester and worked as a truckman. By 1857 his first wife had died, and in that year in Worcester he married Mary E. Patch Rice, a Worcester native whose first husband, Enoch P. Rice, had died three years before. In 1872 the Bridges household included Mary's sons John Green Rice, born in 1848, and Josiah Alfred Rice, born in 1852. John Rice worked as an organ trimmer, while his brother was a messenger for Mechanics National Bank.

In 1890 Mary E. Bridges divided the adjoining vacant lot and sold the eastern half (8 Congress) to trunk manufacturer Hiram C. Barnard and the western half (10 Congress) to George R. Bliss, who ran a hat, cap, and gentlemen's furnishing store on Main Street.¹ The double house was built by the following year. The Worcester architectural firm of Barker & Nourse provided the plans.

The architect Albert Augustus Barker (1852-1905) was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, the eldest child of John Bixby Barker. At age 13 years, five years after his father died, he moved with his family from Bennington, New Hampshire to Worcester, where he attended public schools. He was first employed in the office of Elbridge Boyden, one of the city's oldest practicing architects. In 1879 Barker formed a partnership with Walter B. Nourse, which lasted until 1904, and together they produced plans for many of Worcester's prominent buildings, such as the Gage Street Grammar School (1884, WOR.2281), Freeland Street Schoolhouse (1885, WOR.1386, NR listed), English High School, 20 Irving Street (1891, WOR.1891, NR listed), Gilman Block, 207-219 Main Street (1896, WOR.711, NR listed), Day Building, 300-310 Main Street (1897, WOR.450, NR listed), The Hotel Aurora, 652-660 Main Street (1897, WOR.1059), and the distinctive brick flat blocks The Boynton and The Windsor at 718 and 720 Main Street, respectively (1887, WOR.1240 & 1241). They designed the Harrison S. Prentice Flat Block (1888, WOR.1009) that was built next door to the John E. Day Rental House in the same year. Barker & Nourse also created plans for scores of distinctive Queen Anne-story residences, notably the Hiram Barnard-George Bliss double house at 8-10 Congress Street on Crown Hill. Albert A. Barker married Worcester native Eaycetta Boyd in 1877; their son, Everett Newton Barker, was also an architect and succeeded his father in business.² Walter B. Nourse began his career in the Worcester architect Amos P. Cutting. He was born in Westborough, Worcester County in 1855, the son of Benjamin B. Nourse, a huckster, and Mary E. Longley.

8 Congress Street

Hiram C. Barnard was actually Hiram Everett Barnard, the son of farmer and expressman Cyrus G. Barnard of Auburn and his wife Joanna W. Littlefield, born in Conway, New Hampshire. Born in Worcester in 1852, Hiram Barnard was educated in common schools. By 1867 his brother Frank E. Barnard, born about 1848 in West Boylston, had begun to manufacture trunks in Worcester. According to Worcester historian Charles Nutt, Hiram "was barely of age when he and his brother engaged in the

¹ Mary E. Bridges to Hiram C. Barnard, 15 April 1890, WCD 1324:119, for "a certain tract of land adjacent to George R. Bliss"; Mary E. Bridges to George R. Bliss, 15 April 1890, WCD 1324:117, for "a certain tract of land adjacent to Hiram C. Barnard."

² Ellery Bicknell Crane, *Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Worcester County Massachusetts* (1907), Vol 1, p 425.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

8-10 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1043
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

manufacture of trunks under the name of Barnard Brothers." By 1878 the city directory shows Hiram E. Barnard as the principal in the trunk-making firm of Frank E. Barnard and Company at 540 Main Street; by that time Hiram and Frank's father Cyrus had moved to Worcester from West Boylston and was in business with Alzirus Brown in the boarding and feeding stable Barnard and Taft on Waldo Street. An obituary for Hiram Barnard in *Worcester Magazine* in 1915 noted that the brothers "were concerned altogether with the manufacture of trunks and dealt in trunks and traveling supplies of various sorts." It stated, "With Mr. Barnard, Worcester was 'his city' absolutely and completely; his native city as a matter of fact, but his own city by fealty of heart."³ By 1904 Hiram Barnard was in business for himself at a much larger store at 280 Main Street.

In 1888 Barnard married Mabel A. B. Tew, daughter of steamfitter Charles F. Tew, and the 1900 census shows all three at 8 Congress Street with an Irish-born domestic servant and the Barnards' son Edward, born in 1890, and daughter Ruth, born in 1893. Tew died in 1907, and the 1910 census shows the Barnard family servantless at 8 Congress. Hiram Barnard was president and his wife Mabel treasurer of Barnard Brothers at that time.

In October 1910 Barnard sold 8 Congress Street to Mary Elizabeth Browning Thompson, the wife of civil engineer William Ingraham Thompson, and moved to Morningside Road.⁴ Born in Philadelphia in 1867, William Thompson was the son of Francis Henry Thompson and his wife Frances Hutchinson Thomas Thompson, who were living in Worcester by 1860; the census for that year shows Francis H. Thompson as a peddler in a household with his wife and son Eben Francis Thompson, an attorney, city councilor, and state legislator who later owned 10 Congress Street. The Thompsons were descended from James Thompson, who came from England with John Winthrop and became one of the first settlers of Charlestown, Massachusetts; the brothers' great-grandfather Timothy played a key role in the Battle of Bunker Hill, and their grandfather Samuel Adams Thompson was a teacher who died in 1832 while tending to people stricken with Asiatic cholera.⁵ By 1870 Francis H. Thompson sold patent medicines; his son Eben was ten and William was three. By 1900 the Thompson brothers were living with their families at 84 Elm Street.

The 1920 census shows William I. Thompson as a civil engineer in a household with his wife Mary and his children Francis, Dorothy, Harriet, Elizabeth, and William I. Jr., all between thirteen and twenty-five years old. By 1922 the Thompsons also operated a blueprinting business on Commercial Street. Son Francis by then also worked as a civil engineer in his father's office, and daughter Dorothy was a courthouse indexer. By 1930 the Thompson children had left 8 Congress Street, and William and Mary E. Thompson boarded insurance clerk Wilbert P. Davis and his wife Elizabeth.

Mary E. Thompson owned 8 Congress Street until 1940, when Worcester Five Cent Savings Bank foreclosed on the property and sold it to Patrick F. Dillon. The house changed hands several times over the next few years and in 1944 was acquired by Agnes M. McCarron, who divided the property into three rental units but did not, herself, live there. McCarron sold the property in 1958 to Nellie S. Rajewski, who owned it through at least 1970.⁶

10 Congress Street

Born in Gill in 1846, George Rolland Bliss graduated from Williston Seminary in Easthampton in 1869 and moved to Worcester shortly afterward. He had earlier taught school, but upon his move he became a clerk in the clothing firm of A. P. Ware and Company. About 1873 he became a junior partner in Henry Valentine and Company, which sold clothing and furnishings, and in 1877 Bliss began his own business in hats, caps, and gentlemen's furnishings at 522 Main Street. The business moved in 1892 to the corner of Main and Austin Streets.

³ "Hiram E. Barnard," *The Worcester Magazine* 18, 9 (September 1915), 214; Charles Nutt, *History of Worcester and Its People* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1919), 3:210-11.

⁴ Hiram E. Barnard to Mary E. Thompson, 7 October 1910, WCD 1946:60.

⁵ *American Ancestry: Giving Name and Descent, in the Male Line, of Americans Whose Ancestors Settled in the United States Previous to the Declaration of Independence* (Albany, NY: Joel Munsell's Sons, 1895), 10: 26-27. This biography notes that Timothy Thompson "led a party who dismantled one of the British batteries before the battle of Bunker Hill."

⁶ Worcester Five Cent Savings Bank to Patrick F. Dillon, 14 May 1940, WCD 2775:301, citing 23 April 1940 deed of foreclosure; Gertrude S. E. Brooks, trustee, to Agnes M. McCarron, 1 November 1944, WCD 2936:229; McCarron to Nellie S. Rajewski, 30 October 1958, WCD 3982:185.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

8-10 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

In 1871 Bliss married Anna E. Stoughton of Gill, who had graduated Mount Holyoke College in 1867 and had earlier taught math in a private school in Westerly, Rhode Island. The couple's eldest child, Walter Stoughton Bliss, joined his father's firm in 1899, when the company name changed to George R. Bliss and Son. Son George Rolland Bliss Jr. graduated from Amherst College in 1896 and became a traveling salesman for Royal Worcester Corset Company; the couple's third child, Edith Georgianna, attended Mount Holyoke College for two years and married Holyoke Machine Company manager William Dexter White in 1902.⁷ In 1900, before her marriage, George and Anna Bliss and their three adult children all lived at 10 Congress Street, and the household included domestic servant Eva Kindburg, who had emigrated from Sweden in 1895.

In 1911 Bliss sold 10 Congress Street to the sisters Caroline P. and Mary F. Jones of Newton, whose father Eben Jones worked as a wharf clerk in 1870.⁸ The 1920 census shows Mary F. Jones in the 10 Congress Street house with the Vermont-born housekeeper Mary Taylor, a fifty-one-year-old widow. By 1924 Mary Jones had died, and the house somehow passed to William Ingraham Thompson, who had lived next door at 8 Congress Street since 1910. In that year he transferred title to the house to his brother Eben Francis Thompson, who in 1927 in turn transferred it to his daughter, the librarian Mary Frothingham Thompson.⁹ In 1930 the household was occupied by Eben Thompson, his wife Mary Luranna Johnson Thompson of Westboro, whom he married in 1895, their children Mary and Harold H. R., a minister, and an elderly housekeeper, Emily S. Hinckley. By 1940 Eben Thompson was no longer living at 10 Congress and instead rented it to the family of widow Hermine E. (shown as "Tiny" in the 1940 city directory) Grauel, whose husband John had worked in 1930 as a stamper at a steel mill. In 1940 she lived there with her sons George, a watchman at the city's hospital, and John, a consultant.

In 1940 Mary F. Thompson, by then Mary F. Colton, sold 8 and 10 Congress Street to Agnes B. Maher,¹⁰ and from that point forward the properties were transferred together. Agnes M. McCarron owned both from 1944 to 1958, and Nellie S. Rajewski was owner of 8 and 10 Congress Street from that point until at least 1940.

By 1984 both 8 and 10 Congress Street had been converted to five condominium units.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

CD = city directory, HD = house directory, M = map, C = census

- 1865 Deed 702:627 7/1/1865 in consideration of "\$5,000 Caroline Chase" to Mary E. Bridges
Two lots now 6 and 8-10 Congress
- 1870M vacant section of #8 (now #6)
- 1886M vacant section of #8 (now #6)
- 1890 8 Deed 1324:119 4/15/1890 in consideration of \$1,650 Mary E Bridges to Hiram C. Barnard
"a certain tract of land adjacent to George R. Bliss [#10]"
- 10 Deed 1324:117 4/15/1890 in consideration of \$1,650 Mary E Bridges to George R. Bliss
"a certain tract of land adjacent to Hiram C. Barnard [#8]"
- 1890HD no listing
- 1890CD Barnard Hiram E (Barnard Bros.), 494 Main, house 136 Pleasant
[Barnard Brothers (F.E. & H.E. Barnard), trunk manufacturers, 494 Main]
Bliss George R. hats, caps, &c. 536 Main, h. 22 Newbury

⁷ Nutt, *History of Worcester and Its People*, 4:518-19.

⁸ George R. Bliss to Caroline P. Jones and Mary F. Jones, 16 June 1911, WCD 1965:113.

⁹ William I. Thompson, devisee, to Eben Thompson, 2 September 1924, WCD 2354:206; Eben F. Thompson to Mary Frothingham Thompson, 7 June 1927, WCD 2745:93.

¹⁰ Mary F. Colton to Agnes B. Maher, 19 February 1940, WCD 2769:232; see 8 Congress Street notes for later transfers.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

8-10 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

- 1892CD Barnard Hiram E (Barnard Bros.), 494 Main, house 8 Congress
Bliss George R. hats, caps, &c. 536 Main, h. 10 Congress
- 1896M 8 H.C. Barnard
10 G.R. Bliss
- 1900HD 8 Barnard H.E. Mr. & Mrs.
Tew Charles F. steamfitter, b.
Barnard Hiram E. bld. \$2800; 2675 ft. \$1300
10 Bliss George R. Mr. & Mrs.
Bliss George R. Jr. salesman, b.
Bliss Edith G. Miss, b.
Bliss Walter S. clerk, b.
Bliss George R. bld. \$2800; 2677 ft. \$3100
- 1900C 8 Congress
Barnard Hiram E b July 1852 MA trunk mfg, wife Mabel b Jan 1862 MA, son Edward C b Feb 1890, dau Ruth L b Feb 1893, father-in-law Charles F Tew b July 1825 MA widow no occup, servant Katie Gilmartin b May 1873 Ireland

10 Congress
Bliss George b July 1845 MA gent furnishing store, wife Anna J b Mar 1844 MA, son Walter W b May 1872 MA clerk gent. Furnishings, son George R b July 1874 trav salesman const co, dau Edith G b Dec 1878, servant Eva A Kindburg b Aug 1875 Sweden emig 1895
- 1910HD 8 Barnard H E Mr & Mrs (CD: pres & treas Barnard Bros Co., trunk mfrs, 280 Main)
Barnard Hiram E. bld. \$2800; 2675 ft. \$1100
10 Bliss George R Mr & Mrs (CD: George R. Bliss & Son [Walter], clothing, 600 Main)
Bliss George R jr salesman b
Bliss George R. bld. \$3000; 2677 ft. \$1100
- 1910C 8 Congress
Barnard Hiram E ae 56 b MA proprietor travelling goods, wife Mabel B ae 46 b MA, son Edward C b MA ae 20 clerk and salesman travelling goods, dau Ruth L ae 17

10 Congress
Bliss Geo R ae 60 b MA prop clothing store, wife Anna R ae 50 b MA, son Geo R Jr ae 34 b MA prop electric signs, servant Margaret Flavin ae 28 b Ire emig 1895?
- 1910 8 Deed 1946:60 10/7/1910 Hiram E. Barnard to Mary E. Thompson
- 1911M 8 M. Thompson
10 G.R. Bliss
- 1911 10 Deed 1965:113 6/16/1911 George R. Bliss to Caroline P. Jones & Mary F. Jones (Newton)
- 1920C 8 Congress
Thompson William I owns ae 52 b MA civil engineer private office, wife Mary E 46 b MA, children Francis B 25, Dorothy C 23, Harriet J 19, Elizabeth B 15, William I Jr 13

10 Congress
Jones Mary F owns ae 79 single b MA, housekeeper Mary Taylor ae 51 wid b VT

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

8-10 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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- 1922M 8 M. Thompson
10 C. Jones
- 1922HD 8 Thompson Wm I Mr & Mrs (CD: civil engineer & blue printing, 72 Commercial – Burgess Lang Bldg)
Thompson Francis B b (CD: civil engineer, 72 Commercial)
Thompson Dorothy C b (CD: indexer, 2 Court House)
Thompson Mary E. bld. \$3800; 2675 ft. \$1100
10 Jones Mary F
Behr Agatha E b (housekeeper)
Jones Mary F. bld. \$4000; 2677 ft. \$1100
- 1924 10 Deed 2354:206 9/2/1924 William I Thompson, devisee, to Eben Thompson
- 1927 10 Deed 2745:93 6/7/1927 Eben F. Thompson to Mary Frothingham Thompson
- 1930HD 8 Thompson William I
Davis Wilbur P r (CD: (Elizabeth T) special agent, 390 Main rm 620, Etna Ins Co)
Thompson Mary E. bld. \$4800; 2675 ft. \$1100
10 Thompson Eben Francis (CD: lawyer 311 Main rm 24)
Thompson Harold H R Rev r
Thompson Mary F r
Thompson Eben F. bldg. \$5000; 2677 ft. \$1100
- 1930C 8 Congress
Thompson William I ae 62 b MA engineer own office, wife Mary E owns \$8900 ae 56 b MA, borders Wilbert P Davis ae 30 b MA insurance clerk, Elizabeth T Davis ae 26 b MA clerk office
- 10 Congress
Eben F Thompson owns \$6000 ae 71 widow b MA lawyer own office, dau Mary F ae 27 librarian library, son Harold HR ae 32 clergyman church, housekeeper Emily S Hinkckely ae 71 b ME
- 1940HD 8 Thompson Wm I
Anderson Hilda Mrs. r
Thompson Mary E. hrs. bldg. \$4000; 2675 ft. \$800
10 Grauel Tiny S Mrs
Grauel Geo H r (CD: watchman city hosp (1950))
Grauel John S r (CD: consultant (1950))
Thompson Eben F. bldg. \$4000; 2677 ft. \$800
- 1940 10 Deed 2769:232 2/19/1940 Mary F. [Thompson?] Colton to Agnes B. Maher; Maher also buys #8
- 1940 8 Deed of foreclosure 4/23/1940; mortgage 2289:249 1/18/1923
- 1940 8 Deed 2775:301 5/14/1940 Worcester Five Cent Savings Bank to Patrick F. Dillon
- 1942 8 Deed 2852:13 4/10/1942 Patrick F. Dillon to Alice Maher; Maher also buys #10
- 1944 8-10 Deed 2775:301 5/14/1940 Anna R. Brown to Gertrude S.E. Brooks 8 & 10 Congress St
- 1944 8-10 Deed 2936:229 11/1/1944 Gertrude S.E. Brooks, trustee, to Agnes M. McCarron 8 & 10 Congress St

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

8-10 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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- 1950HD 8 Scully Thos (CD: (Eliz) instr)
Garrett Albert W (CD: (Pearl H) watchman Logan Div US Envelope Co)
Farrell Marjorie M Mrs (CD: hosp wkr)
Farrell Iris L r atndt Worc State Hosp
Farrell Joan M r
McCarron Agnes M. bld. \$4000; 2675 ft. \$700; also owns 10 Congress
- 10 Brown Margt R (CD: clk)
Dineen Robt M (CD: (Irene M) mach opr Crompton & Knowles)
Saville Mary F (CD: clk YMCA)
Johnson Fritz V (CD: millwright)
McCarron Agnes M. bld. \$3500; 2677 ft. \$700; also owns 8 Congress
CD: McCarron Andrew T (Agnes M) real estate 340 Main r 430 r 134 June
- 1958 8-10 Deed 3982:185 10/30/1958 Agnes M McCarron to Nellie S. RajECKI, 8 & 10 Congress St
- 1960HD 8 Peters Jos
Norton John D (Nena G)
Abramoff Eva Mrs
RajECKI Nellie S. 8& 10 Congress St, house \$7500; 5352 ft. 1400; also owns 97 Harrison w/Alex A. RajECKI
- 1970 8-10 Deed 5077:237 11/28/1970 Nellie S. RajECKI to Alexander A. RajECKI 8 & 10 Congress St
- 1970HD 8 Norton Nena G Mrs
Remilard Victor
RajECKI Nellie S. 8& 10 Congress St, house \$7500; 5352 ft. 1400; also owns 97 Harrison w/Alex A. RajECKI
- 1984HD 8 Tyborowski Patricia J
Callahan Christina
Cotton Daniel I
Condos owned by: Callahan, Cotton, Robt W & Patricia A Derry, Timothy A Riggs, & Tyborowski

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

8-10 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

8-10 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1043
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from SW



View from SW

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

03-026-00023	Worcester North	V	WOR.1044
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 12 Congress Street

Historic Name: Nelson & Alida Cowan House

Uses: Present: Two-Family Residential

Original: Single-Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1867

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Classical Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: vinyl clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
Attached garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Garage added
Vinyl siding added
Window sash replaced

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1508 acres

Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from S

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

12 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1044
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Nelson & Alida Cowan House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single-family dwelling with a front gable roof. It is situated on a 0.1508-acre lot on the north side of Congress Street east of Newbury Street. The lot is bordered on the east and west by houses of similar age; Congress Alley, which once ran behind the lots on the north side of Congress Street no longer exists in this section. The house is elevated above the street, which slopes down to the west as Crown Hill bottoms out at Newbury Street. A small yard fills the space between the house and street; there is little space between the house and the west lot line. The east side of the lot contains a driveway and parking area off the street terminating at a garage attached to the northeast corner of the house. There is a yard area in the rear of the house; the property is currently shaded by evergreen trees planted in the front yard.

The front façade contains an entrance with sidelights on the west side of two windows on the first story. The doorway is set within a porch of recent construction. Triangular braces flanking the door appear to survive from the original hood cantilevered over it. Two windows are symmetrically spaced in the upper story. A one-story bay window was constructed later on the east side of the house adding a fourth bay to the front façade. Broken eave dormers have been added to the side walls. Around the same time, a two-story wing was added to the rear of the east side. Later a one-car garage was inserted in the ground floor. There are no outbuildings. Window sash have been replaced.

The Nelson & Alida Cowan House is an example of a story-and-a-half cottage typical of middling domestic architecture built in the mid-19th century in Worcester. Compared with the larger and more elaborate houses near the top of Crown Hill, it provides a sense of the lower end of the economic range of buildings in the neighborhood.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

12 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1044
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

The house at 12 Congress Street was built about 1867 for the gardener Nelson Cowen, who was born about 1806 in the Berkshire County town of Chester and was living in Worcester by 1866. His daughter Sarah (also shown as Serah), a dressmaker, appears to have preceded him to the city; born about 1831 in Massachusetts, she was living in a Worcester boardinghouse or hotel in 1860. In 1870 the Cowens' 12 Congress Street household included Nelson, his wife Alida B. Ballou Cowen, and their single daughters Mary and Sarah, both working as dressmakers; the census shows Sarah as the property owner. In 1873 Alida Cowen died, and in 1892 Nelson Cowen, listed in his death record as a dyer, died, both in Worcester. The Cowan daughters remained at 12 Congress Street and generally rented part of the house to individuals or small families; in 1900 wood shop foreman Joseph S. Blake of Maine and his wife Emma shared the house with Mary and Sarah Cowen.

In most censuses and directories Sarah Cowen is listed as a dressmaker, though in 1890 the Worcester house directory shows her, enigmatically, as a "metaphysician." She died between 1911 and 1922, and the 12 Congress Street property passed to her sister Mary, who owned it until 1934 but does not appear to have lived in the house after 1922. In 1934 Worcester County Institution for Savings foreclosed on the property, and in 1940 the bank sold it to Alfred C. and Stephanie A. Pisegna. Born about 1913 in Worcester, Alfred Pisegna was the son of James (shown as Giacomina in the 1920 census) Pisegna, a stone mason who emigrated from Italy to the United States in 1906, and Assunta M. Pisegna, who came from Italy with the couple's daughter Mary in 1910. Alfred Pisegna grew up at 1230 Grafton Street, and by 1930 he worked as a laborer in a slipper factory. He and his wife Stephanie owned and occupied the property until 1978, when they sold it to Francis and Ruth Hart.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

(CD = city directory, HD = house directory, M = map, C = census)

- 1867CD Cowin [sic] Nelson, h 12 Congress FIRST INSTANCE
(1866 Cowen on 12 Lagrange; not listed in 1865)
- 1870M house depicted, no name
- 1870CD Cowen Nelson, h. 12 Congress
- 1870C Cowan Nelson ae 68 gardener b MA, wife Ollydia ae 70 b VT, dau Mary F 44 dressmaker b RI, dau Sarah M ae 39 dressmaker b MA \$5000 real/\$1000 personal
- 1872SD 12, ho., Nelson Cowan
12, ho., Miss Sarah M. Cowen, dressmaker
- 1873VR died 6 June Alida B Cowen ae 76 b VT pars Elias & Polley Ballou Cowen both born RI
- 1875CD Cowen Nelson, h. 12 Congress
Cowen. S.M. Miss, dressmaker, 12 Congress, house do.
- 1880C 12 Congress: Cowen Nelson ae 77 gardener b MA, dau Mary E 53, dau Saarah M 49
- 1886M Miss S.M. Cowan
- 1890HD Kendall Chas. D. clerk 1
Cowen Nelson 2
Cowen S.M. metaphysician, b.
Cowen Mary F. Miss, b.
Miss S.M. Cowen, bld. \$1600; 6570 ft. \$2600
- 1892VR died 26 Oct Nelson Cowen ae 88 b Chester res Worcester dyer pars Daniel & Sarah Smith Cowen both b Chesterfield

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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12 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

- 1896M Mrs. S.M. Cowen
- 1900HD Blake Joseph Mr. & Mrs. 1 (color mixer
Cowen S.M. dressmaker 2
Cowen Mary F. Miss, b.
Cowen Sarah M. bld. \$1600; 6570 ft. \$3000
- 1900C 12 Congress: Mary Cowen b Feb 1827 RI father b MA mother b PA no occup, sister Serrah F b March 1831 MA no occup, boarder Joseph S Blake b Aug 1860 ME foreman wood shop, wife Emma b Jan 1871 MA
- 1910HD Liberty C Wallace clerk 1 (accountant, 484 Main – denholm & McKay Co. dry goods, carpets, millinery, cloaks, &c.)
Bent Mary E Mrs b (widow Eugene A)
Cowen Sarah M dressmaker 2
Cowen Mary F Miss b
Cowen Sarah M. bld. \$1600; 6570 ft. \$2600
- 1911M S.M. Cowen
- 1922M S.M. Cowen
- 1922HD Hallowell William Mr & Mrs (inspector)
Cowen Mary F
Pitts Maria L b
Cowen Sarah .heirs, bld. \$2500; 6570 ft. \$2600
- 1930HD Drohan Martin J (Mary E) steamfitter
Drohan Kathleen M r clerk
Pitts Maria L
Moore Ellen Mrs r
Cowen Sarah .heirs, bld. \$3200; 6570 ft. \$2500
- 1934 Deed of foreclosure 2617:463 8/14/1934 Sarah M. Cowen to Worcester Co. Inst. For Savings; Mortgage (1895)
- 1940HD Hanscom Lena V Mrs wid Chas W
Hanscom Evelyn J r slswmn
Conger Wm L (Jane M)
Conger Jas M r (Ruth) wire tyer Johnson Steel & Wire Co
Worcester County Institution for Savings
- 1940 Deed 2801:112 12/11/1940 Worcester County Institute for Savings to Alfred C. Pisegna & Stephanie A. Pisegna
- 1950HD Pisegna Alf C (Stephanie A)
Wicik Frank
Pisegna Stephanie bld. \$2000; 6570 ft. \$1700
- 1960HD Pisegna Alf C
Pisegna Alf C jr r
Pisegna June E r
Pisegna Carol E r

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Wicik Frank
Pisegna Alf C & Stephanie A house \$2200; 6570 ft. \$1700

1970HD Pisegna Alf C
Pisegna Alf C & Stephanie A house \$2200; 6570 ft. \$1700

1978 Deed 6488:340 6/8/1978 Alfred C. Pisegna & Stephanie A. Pisegna to Francis & Ruth Hart

1984HD Pisegna Alf C
 Hart Francis C
Curran Francis & Hart Ruth, hse \$27,300; 6570 ft. \$3500

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

12 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from SE



View from SW

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

03-026-00018	Worcester North	V	WOR.1039
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Photograph



Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 13 Congress Street

Historic Name: Charles & Caroline Lang House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1855

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

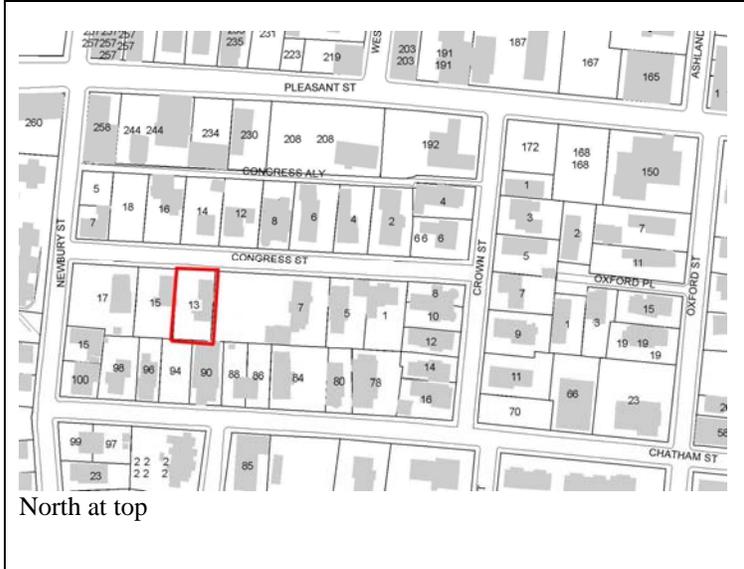
Major Alterations (*with dates*):
none

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1514 acres

Locus Map



Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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13 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Charles & Caroline Lang House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single-family dwelling with a front gable roof. It is situated on a 0.1514-acre lot on the south side of Congress Street east of Newbury Street. The lot is bordered on the west by houses of similar age and the east by a paved parking lot on the site of a demolished house. The house is elevated above the street, which slopes down to the west as Crown Hill bottoms out at Newbury Street. A small yard fills the space between the house and street; there is a sloping yard west of the house now enclosed by a solid wood fence. A parking area is located in front of the fence in the northwest corner of the lot; gates in the fence in this location allow for access to the interior of the yard. There is no garage.

The front façade contains an entrance with sidelights on the east side of two windows on the first story. A one-story porch spans the façade with a simplified frieze and attenuated column posts suggesting a later construction date. Two windows are symmetrically spaced in the upper story. All windows surrounds have pointed headers. A Greek Revival entablature is intact along the raking edges of the gable roof, and while they do not return across the front to create a pediment, they wrap across the tops of the side walls. Wide, paneled pilasters distinguish the corners. A broken eave dormer has been added to the east side. Because of the sloping terrain, the brick basement is exposed on the west side. A one-story kitchen ell is attached to the rear. Windows retain historic two-over-two wood sash.

The Charles & Caroline Lang House is a distinctive example of a story-and-a-half cottage typical of middling domestic architecture built in the mid-19th century in Worcester. Compared with the larger and more elaborate houses near the top of Crown Hill, it provides a sense of the lower end of the economic range of buildings in the neighborhood.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

13 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

The house at 13 Congress Street was built about 1855, although its exact construction history is not yet known; more detailed deed research is needed to identify the original owner. Charles and Caroline Lang were tenants in the house in 1858, along with their three children and an Irish domestic servant. Charles Lang was 26 years of age and had been born in Bavaria; he worked as an engraver for Joseph B. Knox & Co. at Harrington Corners. His wife, Caroline, was a native of Hanover; the details of their immigration and marriage are unknown. They had left Worcester by 1865, probably for Jersey City, New Jersey where they were enumerated in the 1870 census. The next tenant in the house was Edwin J. Leland, who one account terms "one of the pioneer photographers of Worcester."¹ Born about 1829 in Grafton, Leland was living in Boston by 1850, when he married Ann B. Stow of Leeds in Lowell, where she was then living. By 1860 Leland had returned to Grafton, where he worked as a machinist, and by 1865 he had become a photographer at Harrington's Corner in Worcester in partnership with George P. Critcherson. By 1870 Leland is shown at the Congress Street house with his wife and six children, ages two to eighteen.

By 1880 Edwin J. Leland had become an electrician and had moved to Bowdoin Street. Postal worker Edward J. Ryan lived in the house for that year, and a series of tenants probably followed, including the widow Mary Wales whose name appears with the house on the 1886 city map. The actual owner of the house is still ambiguous at this point, yet by 1887 it was mortgaged by Mary A. Reynolds Tribou, a native of the coastal town of Dartmouth. Tribou was the second wife of David F. Tribou, a shoe cutter and later shoe shop foreman who grew up in his father Samuel's home in North Bridgewater. Tribou married first, in 1850, Ann B. King of Mansfield, who died in 1860 at the age of twenty-eight. He married Reynolds in 1862, and the Tribous' 1870 North Bridgewater household included two children from David Tribou's first marriage, Frank and Ellen, and one from his second, Herbert, born about 1868.

Mary A. Tribou died in Worcester in 1896, but the Worcester house directory for 1900 shows the house still in her possession, though rented, in 1900. In 1902 the 13 Congress Street property was sold to James E. Boardman, a native of England who was born about 1852. Boardman came to the United States in 1860 with his parents and siblings, and in 1870 the family was living in nearby Leicester; he, his father John (then sixty-five years old), and his siblings Mary (nineteen years old) and John (fourteen) all worked in a woolen mill. They shared their Leicester house with English immigrants John and Elizabeth Harrison, and by 1880 James Boardman had married the Harrisons' daughter Sarah. The 1880 census shows the couple in the Harrisons' Leicester household; Boardman was then working as a grocer. The Boardmans moved to Connecticut by 1890, the year their daughter Ruth was born.

By 1910 James Boardman owned a stove and furnace store in Worcester and lived at 13 Congress with his wife, daughter Ruth, and widowed mother-in-law Elizabeth Harrison. He continued to own the 13 Congress Street property (as well as 19 Congress Street) through 1922, though by that year he lived at another house he owned at 77 Chatham Street. By 1930 Boardman sold the property to C. Everett Fuller, a carpenter and later church janitor who was born in Massachusetts in 1856 and was living in Worcester by 1900. Fuller's wife Olive was a native of New Brunswick, Canada and had come to the United States in 1880 or 1888. The 1930 census shows the 13 Congress household as including Fuller, his wife, and two roomers, one a single schoolteacher and the other a Vermont-born widow who worked as a matron at the local YWCA.

The Fullers owned and occupied the property, which routinely was occupied as well by two roomers at any given time, through the death of C. Everett Fuller in January 1943. In June that year his widow sold the property to Albert E. and Grace E. Harrison. In 1930 Albert Harrison was an assistant foreman at the leather products manufacturer Graton and Knight Company; by 1950 he was a foreman there. He occupied 13 Congress with his wife Grace and at some times with his children Clifton and Ruth and Ruth's husband Charles B. Raymus through 1970. In 1984 the property was owned by Ethel C. Obrine.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

(CD = city directory, HD = house directory, M = map, C = census)

1857M house depicted

1859CD Lang Charles, J[oseph] B. Knox & Co., die sinkers & engravers, Harrington Cors., h. 13 Congress

¹ "Local History and Genealogy," *Proceedings of the Worcester Society of Antiquity* 14 (1893): 340.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

13 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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- 1860C Lang Charles ae 27 engraver \$900 personal b Bavaria, wife Caroline 27 b Hanover, children Oscar J 4, Eugene 2, Berta 1, (all b MA), Mary McManus 22 domestic b Ireland
- 1865CD Leland Edwin J. (Critcherson & Leland) h 13 Congress
Critcherson is George P. Critcherson; business photographs at Harrington's Corner
- 1870M E.J. Leland
- 1870CD Leland Edwin J. photographer, Harrington corner, h 13 Congress
- 1870C Leland Edwin J ae 42 photographer \$2000 real/\$1000 person b MA, wife Annie B 39 b ME, children Leslie 18, Harry 16, Ernest 14, Kate 12, Edwin 8, Annie 4, Frank 2
- 1872SD 13, ho. Edwin J. Leland, photographer, 425 Main cor. Front
- 1879CD Leland Edwin J. photographer, 425 Main c. Front, house 13 Congress
1883CD Leland Edwin J. electrician, 424 Main, house 25 Bowdoin
1892VR died 8 Nov Edwin J Leland ae 63 b Grafton electrician pars Levi & Experience Taft Leland both of Grafton
- 1880C Ryan Edward J ae 30 postal clerk b MA, wife Alvira 29 b CT, son George 8 b MA, boarders Mary S Ryan 50 & Carrie E Ryan 27 clerk fancy goods
1879CD Ryan Edward J, h. 86 Austin
1881CD Ryab Edward J, postal car clerk, h. 160 Austin
- 1880CD Wales Lucy, widow of Andrew F. boards 13 Congress
- 1886M Lucy Wales
- 1887 Mortgage 1253:166 9/30/1887 Mary A. & David F. Tribou to Francis F. Kimball, Nashua NH
- 1890HD Tribou David F. foreman
Mary A. Tribou, bld. \$1200; 6597 ft. \$2100
- 1896M Mary A. Trebou
- 1900HD Laviolette A. Mr. & Mrs.
Laviolette E.M. art needlework. b.
Laviolette Rodolphe, clerk, b.
Tribou Mary A. bld. \$1200; 6597 ft. \$2500
- 1902 Deed 1736:416 12/19/1902 Emma G. Porter to James E. Boardman
- 1910HD Boardman James E Mr & Mrs (stoves, 30 Pleasant)
Boardman Ruth E Miss b
Harrison Elizabeth A Mrs b (widow John)
Boardman James E. bld. \$1000; 6597 ft. \$2300
- 1910C 13 Congress: Boardman James E ae 57 owns free b Eng emig 1860 proprietor stoves, furnaces, wife Sarah E ae 65 b MA pars Eng, dau Ruth E ae 20 b CT, mother-in-law J Elizabeth Harrison ae 76 widow b Eng
- 1911M J.E. Boardman

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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-
- 1922M J.E. Boardman (stoves, 30 Pleasant, h. 77 Chatham)
- 1922HD Gates Bertha H
Boardman James E. bld. 2000; 6597 ft. \$2300; also owns 19 Congress & 77 Chatham
- 1926 Mortgage 2400:377 4/12/1926 James E. Boardman to C. Everett Fuller
- 1930C 13 Congress Fuller Everett C owns \$4700 ae 74 b MA janitor church, wife Oliver ae 71 b Eng Canada emig 1880, roomers Ruth E Atkinson 43 b MA school teacher, Jennie J Smith ae 46 wid b VT matron YWCA
- 1930HD Fuller C Everett (Olive) janitor
Codair Ella Mrs r
Mercier Helen r brushmaker
Fuller C Everett & Olive A. bldg \$2500; 6597 ft. \$2300
- 1940HD Fuller C Everett
Gibson Minnie A r
Behr Agatha E
Fuller C Everett & Olive A. bldg \$2500; 6597 ft. \$1700
- 1943 Deed 2888:295 6/12/1943 Olive Fuller, wid C. Everett Fuller (d. 1/22/1943, 87 yrs.; b. Oxford, son of Daniel) to Albert E. & Grace E. Harrison
- 1950HD Harrison Albert E (Grace E) Foreman Graton & Knight Co. leather products
Raymus Chas B r (Ruth M) pressman
Harrison Albert E & Grace E. bldg \$2500; 6597 ft. \$1700
- 1960HD Harrison Albert E
Harrison Clifton W r
Myshrail Perley M
Harrison Albert E & Grace E. house \$2500; 6597 ft. \$1700
- 1970HD Harrison Albert E
Harrison Albert E & Grace E. house \$2500; 6597 ft. \$1700
- 1984HD Williams Bill
Obrine Ethel C. hse \$23,700; 6597 ft. \$8500

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

13 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1039
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from NW



View form NE

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

13 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1039
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980



Detail from NE

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

03-026-00017	Worcester North	V	WOR.1045
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 14 Congress Street

Historic Name: Alfred E. & Dorinda Metcalf House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1860

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Window pair added to second story

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1516 acres

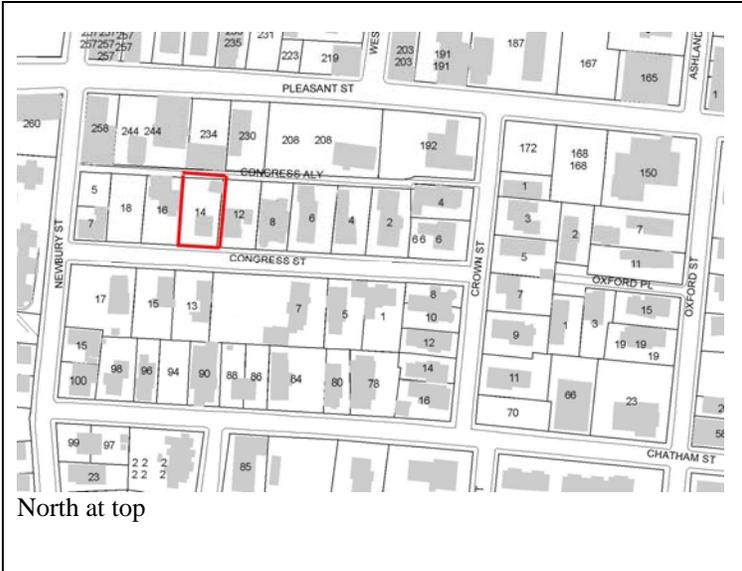
Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from SE

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

14 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1045
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Alfred E. & Dorinda Metcalf House is a story-and-a-half wood frame single-family dwelling with a front gable roof. It is situated on a 0.1516-acre lot on the north side of Congress Street east of Newbury Street. The lot is bordered on the east and west by houses of similar age. Congress Alley once ran along the rear (north) lot line, but it no longer exists in this section. The house is elevated above the street, which slopes down to the west as Crown Hill bottoms out at Newbury Street. A small yard fills the space between the house and street; there is a sloping yard west of the house and a large rear area. A paved driveway runs along the east lot line and terminates at a detached wood frame two-car garage in the northeast corner of the parcel.

The front façade contains an entrance with sidelights on the east side of two windows on the first story. A one-story porch spans the façade with a simplified frieze and attenuated column posts suggesting a later construction date. Two windows are symmetrically spaced in the upper story; the window on the west side was later enlarged to contain a pair of sashes added later. All windows retain their original simple surrounds. The roof line has no decoration and eaves project on all sides. Because of the sloping terrain, the brick basement is exposed on the west side. Windows retain historic wood sash.

The Alfred E. & Dorinda Metcalf House is an intact example of a story-and-a-half cottage typical of middling domestic architecture built in the mid-19th century in Worcester. Compared with the larger and more elaborate houses near the top of Crown Hill, it provides a sense of the lower end of the economic range of buildings in the neighborhood.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

The house at 14 Congress Street was built around 1860 machinist Alfred E. Metcalf and his family consisting of his wife Dorinda Phelps and three daughters, Helen (age 23), Delia (21) and Mary (16). Alfred Metcalf was born in Franklin about 1808, the

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

14 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1045
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

same year his wife, Dorinda Phelps was born in Sterling. They were married in 1834 and were living on Lincoln Street in Worcester with four young daughters by 1848. (Their youngest daughter, Ella Frances, born in 1848, died in 1852). They may have come from Newton. In 1863 Alfred Metcalf died at the age of fifty-five, and five years later his daughters Delia and Mary both married, Delia on 22 December 1868 to Connecticut-born salesman Albert Manning and Mary on 30 December to New York native Nelson W. Van Dusen, a merchant then living in Glens Falls, New York. By 1870 Dorinda Metcalf was living at 14 Congress with her daughter Delia and her husband Albert Manning.

The 1886 Worcester map shows Dorinda P. Metcalf as owner of 14 Congress Street, but she had died in 1877. The city directory for 1886 shows her daughters Delia Manning and Helen Metcalf as boarders at this address; at that time Helen Metcalf, who remained single, was a valentine maker, and later nineteenth-century directories show her as an artist. Albert Manning's absence at this time is unexplained, but in 1890 Albert and Delia Manning shared the house with Delia's sister, Helen Metcalf, and seventeen-year-old Alfred M. Van Dusen, the son of their sister Mary and her husband Nelson Van Dusen. By 1900 Alfred Van Dusen was working as a clerk in a music store and lived at 14 Congress Street with his widowed mother Mary Van Dusen; his aunt Helen Metcalf, then working as an underwear inspector; and his aunt Delia Manning, a music teacher. While the house directory for 1900 shows Delia Manning's husband Albert in the household, the census of that year does not.

By 1910 city records show Alfred Van Dusen as owner of the 14 Congress Street property. Three years earlier he had married Mabel E. Danielson of Boston, whose parents had emigrated from Sweden, and by 1910 Van Dusen was a salesman for the piano and music retailer M. Steinert and Sons Company. Van Dusen's mother and her sister Helen Metcalf continued to share the house with Van Dusen and his wife. Delia Manning had disappeared from the household.

Between 1911 and 1922 Van Dusen sold the 14 Congress Street property to Andrew N. Bell, who was born in Greece about 1885 and had come to the United States in 1895. In 1922, with Greek immigrant Nicholas Lagadinis, Bell operated the confectionary firm of Bell Brothers at 558 Main Street and 152 Front Street; by 1930 he was a clerk at the Excellent Tea Room at 662 Main Street, owned by Greek immigrant Philipas Bakas. Bell occupied part of 14 Congress Street and rented the rest in the mid-1920s, but by 1927 he had moved from the property. In 1930 and 1940 Jeremiah W. and Anastasia Horan of Whitinsville owned the property and rented it to collector Walter Duggen and his wife Mary. Ownership of the 14 Congress Street property changed frequently after 1940.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

(CD = city directory, HD = house directory, M = map, C = census)

- 1860C Alfred E Metcalf ae 51 machinist real \$4000 personal 700 b MA, wife Dorinda M 48 b MA, children Helen M 23 Delia C 21 Mary A 16 all b MA
1859CD Metcalf Alfred E, machinist, h. 14 Lincoln
- 1870M no name
- 1870C Metcalf D Phelps ae 68 keeping house real \$3000 personal 800 b MA, Manning Albert 25 clerk in store b CT, wife Delia 31 no occupation b MA
- 1872SD 14, ho., Mrs. Alfred E. Metcalf
14, bds., Albert Manning, clerk
- 1886M Mrs. D.P. Metcalf
- 1886CD Manning Delia C. boards 14 Congress
Metcalf Helen, valentine maker, boards 14 Congress
- 1890HD Manning Albert
Metcalf Helen M. artist, b.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

14 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1045
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

-
- Van Dusen A.M. student, b.
Delia C. Manning, bld. \$800; 6604 ft. \$2500
- 1896M A.M. Van Dusen
- 1900HD Manning Albert Mr. & Mrs.
Metcalf Helen M. artist, b.
Van Dusen A.M. bookpr. b.
Van Dusen Mary A. Mrs. b.
Van Dusen Alfred M. bld. \$800; 6604 ft. \$2800
- 1900C 14 Congress: Vandusen Alfred b Dec 1869 MA clerk music store, mother Mary A b Feb 1849 widow b MA, boarder
Delia Manning b Mar 1838 MA music teacher, boarder Helen Medcalf b April 1836 MA inspector underwear
- 1910HD Van Dusen Alfred M (salesman, 308 Main – Steinert M & Sons Co. pianos & music)
Van Dusen Mary A Mrs b (widow Nelson)
Metcalf Helen M artist b
Van Dusen Alfred M. bld. \$1000; 6604 ft. \$2500
- 1910C 14 Congress: Van Dusen Mary A ae 67 widow b MA owns mortgage, sister Helen M Metcalf ae 76 b MA no occup,
son Alfred M Van Dusen ae 40 b MA salesman music store, dau-in-law Mabel E Van Dusen ae 37 b MA pars Sweden
- 1911M A. Van Dusen
- 1922M A.N. Bell
- 1922HD Bell Andrew N (Bell Bros, confectionery, 558 Main & 152 Front; w/ Nicholas Lagadinos)
Tinkham Lillian D b
Bell Andrew N. bld. \$2500;6604 ft. \$2500
- 1930HD Duggan Walter (Mary) collector 88 Front
Horan Jeremiah W & Anastasia, bldg \$3200; 6604 ft. \$2500
- 1940HD Duggan Walter E
Horan Jeremiah W & Anastasia (Whitinsville MA) bldg \$2700; 6604 ft. \$1800
- 1950HD Stevens Wm P (Lucy L) emp Reed-Prentice Corp mach mfrs
Gomez Lucy A Mrs r
Stevens Lucy L. bldgs \$3300; 6604 ft. \$1700
- 1960HD Millett Corinne M Mrs wid Jos A
Catalano Jos
Millett Corinne M. garage \$500, house \$3000; 6604 ft. \$1700
- 1970HD Salah Philip
Salah Philip & Shirley, garage \$500, house \$3000; 6604 ft. \$1700
- 1984HD Ross Jacqueline
Ross Jacqueline, hse \$24,800; 6604 ft. \$8500

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

14 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

14 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1045
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from SE



View from SW

FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

03-026-00013

Worcester
North

V

WOR.1040

NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 15 Congress Street

Historic Name: Simon T. & Clarissa S. Jacobs House

Uses: Present: Single Family Residential

Original: Single Family Residential

Date of Construction: ca. 1854

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Greek Revival

Architect/Builder: Simon T. Jacobs, possible builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Roof: asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
none

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1587 acres

Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from NE

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

15 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1040
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Simon T. & Clarissa S. Jacobs House is a two-story wood frame single-family dwelling with a front gable roof. It is situated on a 0.1587-acre lot on the south side of Congress Street east of Newbury Street. The lot is bordered on the east and west by houses of similar age. The house is elevated slightly above the street, which slopes down to the west as Crown Hill bottoms out at Newbury Street. A small yard fills the space between the house and street where a mortared stone retaining wall has been added. There is a sloping yard west of the house now enclosed by a solid wood fence. A parking area is located in front of the fence in the northwest corner of the lot; gates in the fence in this location allow for access to the interior of the yard. There is no garage.

The here-bay front façade contains an entrance with sidelights and transom set within a trabeated architrave on the east side of the first story. There is no evidence of their having been a porch on the front. Windows are symmetrically spaced and have simple surrounds. A Greek Revival pediment is intact in the gable and contains a window; the wood shingle siding was added later. Greek entablatures with tall friezes wrap across the tops of the side walls. Wide, paneled pilasters distinguish the corners. A blank section of wall at the front of the east wall indicates the location of an interior staircase. Because of the sloping terrain, the brick basement is exposed on the west side. A small one-story shed roof ell is attached to the rear. Windows retain historic two-over-two wood sash.

The Simon T. & Clarissa S. Jacobs House is a distinctive example of a story-and-a-half cottage typical of middling domestic architecture built in the mid-19th century in Worcester. Compared with the larger and more elaborate houses near the top of Crown Hill, it provides a sense of the lower end of the economic range of buildings in the neighborhood.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

15 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1040
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

The house at 15 Congress Street was probably built by 1854 for the family of carpenter Simon T. Jacobs. Born about 1827 in Auburn, Jacobs was boarding and working in Worcester by 1850. In Quincy in 1851 he married Clarissa R. Soule, a Connecticut native then living in Quincy, and in 1854 in Worcester their daughter Clara M. Jacobs was born. Her birth record shows her parents' residence as Congress Street, as does the 1855 death record for Simon Jacobs. The 1859 city directory shows Mrs. Simon T. Jacobs as living at 15 Congress Street, and the 1860 census shows her household as having included her daughter Clara, the tailor John B. Devereaux, his wife Mary, and their three-month-old daughter Agnes.

Clarissa Jacobs always rented part of 15 Congress—in 1872 to the needlemaker Henry A. Southwick, and in 1880 to the tinworker Frank Tourtollot and his wife and child. Jacobs died in 1889 at the age of sixty-three, and the property passed to her daughter Clara, who two years earlier had married the Rowe-born carpenter Alanson W. King. The 1900 census shows two units in addition to the one occupied by Alanson and Clara King at 15 Congress—that of the carpenter Robert N. Parker, who had emigrated from Canada in 1890 to join his mother Margaret Berry and his sister Margaret, who had come to the United States in 1877, and that of Fannie Hinds, a single woman born in Massachusetts in 1853. The households of driver Alfred Caisse and nurse Elizabeth Morrison were tenants there. In 1920 the families of iron worker Nathan Williams and John J. Plante occupied the other two units in the house. By 1930 Plante had acquired 15 Congress Street from the Kings.

Born in Worcester about 1886, John J. Plante worked as a portrait studio photographer, which was also the occupation of his father, Levi N. Plante, a native of Grafton. At the time of his marriage to Mary Demore, Levi Plante lived in Millbury and was working as a shoemaker, but by 1900 he was a Worcester photographer. The family moved to Auburn by 1909, when John J. Plante, by then a photographer, married Mae or Mary O'Leary of Worcester. Levi Plante was still in Auburn in 1915 when he received a patent for a device that scored card stock, such as photograph folders, which he assigned to Eastman Kodak Company.¹

The 1930 house directory shows Clara M. King as owner and an occupant at 15 Congress Street, but the federal census of the same year does not record her presence in or ownership of the property. In that year the census showed John J. and Mary Plante as owners and occupants of one unit with their son John J., then fourteen years old. The house directory shows Stephen and Mary O'Leary, John J. Plante's in-laws, as occupants of the house and three other individuals or families lived in the house as well.

John J. Plante owned 15 Congress from about 1930 through at least 1960, and unlike several other houses on Congress Street, 15 Congress was occupied by its owner and by long-term tenants from the time John J. Plante acquired the property about 1930. Hospital engineer Austin A Corrigan and his wife Mary lived in the house from at least 1940 to at least 1960, and Worcester Film Corporation electrician John J. Villa occupied a unit from at least 1940 through at least 1950. About 1960 Austin and Katherine Manning moved to 15 Congress Street, and they acquired the property from the Plante family by 1970.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

(CD = city directory, SD = Street Directory, HD = house directory, M = map, C = census)

1859CD Mrs. Simon T. Jacobs, h. 15 Congress

1860C 1) Clarey Jacobs ae 32 \$3000 real/400 personal b MA, dau Clara ae 6; 2) John B Devereaux ae 34 tailor b MA, wife Mary J 30, dau Agnes M 3 mos

¹ Plante applied for the patent in June 1911 and was granted patent 1,153,951 on 21 September 1915. See U. S. Patent Office patent at http://www.google.com/patents?id=puM_AAAAEBAJ&pg=PA2&lpg=PA2&dq=%22levi+n+plante%22+%26+photograph&source=bl&ots=BKRUS166OY&sig=2rrtlnI5iATBUm4GDuRqBWKGDg&hl=en&ei=moBZTP-2M4egnQf2-eC7CQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CBUQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=%22levi%20n%20plante%22%20%26%20photograph&f=false.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

15 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

V	WOR.1040
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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

-
- 1870M Mrs. Jacobs
- 1872HD Jacobs Clarissa, widow, h. 15 Congress
- 1872SD 15, ho., Clarissa Jacobs, widow
15, ho., Henry A. Southwick, needlemaker, 19 Church
- 1880C 15 Congress: Jacobs Clarence [sic] ae 55 male[sic] b CT, dau Clara M ae 26 b MA; 2) Tourtolott Frank ae 52 tinman b MA, wife Harriet W ae 42 b ME, son Fred R 16 pistol shop b MA
- 1886M Mrs. S.T. Jacobs (Clarissa, wid Simon T Jacobs)
- 1889VR died [date illeg] Clarissa R Jacobs ae 63 b Willington CT parents Beza Soule b CT and Mary Hammond Soule b MA
- 1890HD King Alanson W. carpenter 1
Brigham H.L. varnisher 2
Mrs. S.F. Jacobs, bld. \$1400; 6911 ft. \$2100
- 1896M Clara M. Ring [King]
- 1900HD King A.W. Mr. & Mrs. 1
Hinds Fannie A. Miss 2
Berry Margaret Mrs. 3
Parker Robert N. carpenter, b.
Parker Margaret L. Miss, b.
King Clara M; bld. \$3800; 6911 ft. \$2400
- 1900C 15 Congress:
1) King Lanson b Oct 1844 MA carpenter owns w/ mortgage, wife Clara M b Jan 1854 MA
2) Hinds Fannie b Apr 1853 MA no occup
3) Parker Robert N b Dec 1868 Eng Can emig 1890 carpenter, sister Margaret b Oct 1878 Eng Cand emig 1877 dressmaker, mother Margaret Berry b Nov 1823 Eng Can emig 1877, boarder George M Kenedy b Jan 1878 Can emig 1895 core maker
1887VR married 17 Oct Alanson W King ae 43 b Rowe res Worcester carpenter pars T Foster & Lydia King to Clara M Jacobs ae 33 housekeeper b/res Worcester pars Simon P & Clarissa
- 1910HD King A W Mr & Mrs 1 (carpenter)
Caisse Alfred Mr & Mrs 2 (driver)
Caisse William Mr & Mrs b (electrician)
Caisse Rose A dressmaker b
Morrison Elizabeth E Mrs nurse 3
Morrison Alexander machinist b
Morrison Eliza clerk b
Morrison Violet I clerk b
King Clara M; bld. \$3800; 6911 ft. \$2400
- 1911M C.M. King
- 1920C 15 Congress:
1) King Alonzo W owns free ae 75 b MA carpenter, wife Clara M ae 66 b MA
2) Williams Nathan rents ae 58 b MA iron worker iron shop, wife Olive L ae 59 b NY
3) Plante John J rents ae 33 b MA photographer studio, wife Mary 30 b MA, dau Bernice 9, son John 4 both b MA

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

15 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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4) Hicks Charles L rents ae 54 b MA mecanic [sic]? Jail, wife Lula E ae 51 b MA

1922M C.M. King

1922HD King Alanson W Mr & Mrs
 Williams Nathan A Mr & Mrs (ironworker 136 Green –Worcester Ornamental Iron Co)
 Plante John J Mr & Mrs (photographer, 393 Green St, rm 406)
 Hicks Charles L Mr & Mrs (officer at jail)
King Clara M; bld. \$6000; 6911 ft. \$2400

1930HD King Clara M Mrs
 [Plante John J (Mary F) photographer 393 Main rm 406]
 O’Leary Stephen M (Mary J)
 Benson Rose Mrs r cashier
 Irvin Helen Mrs r
 LaCava John J (Alma B) electrician
King Clara M; bld. \$6500; 6911 ft. \$2400

1930C 15 Congress: Plante John J owns \$3500 ae 44 b MA photographer studio, wife Mary F ae 39 b MA, son John J ae 14

1940HD Villa John J
 Plante John J (Mary F) pres Oliver & Plante Studio Inc , 393 Main rm 406
 Healy Ellen F wid Wm J
 Healy Nellie M r bookkeeper
 Corrigan Austin A (Mary A) foreman & asst eng City Hosp
Plante John J & Mary F. bldg \$6500; 6911 ft. \$1800

1950HD Scott Arth R (Mary M)
 Villa John J (Alice E) asst electrician Worc Film Corp
 Plante John J
 Corrigan Austin A
Plante John J & Mary F. bldg \$6500; 6911 ft. \$1800

1960HD Plante John J
 Corrigan Austin A
 Manning Kath J r
 Taylor Samuel jr
Plante John J & Mary F. house \$6500; 6911 ft. \$1800

1970HD Frisch Rose P
 Vacant
 Manning Austin
Manning Katherine & Austin, house \$6500; 6911 ft. \$1800

1984HD Savino Jos K
Savino Joseph R hse \$23,900; 6911 ft. \$8900

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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- The Worcester House Directory*. Worcester: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1920-1938. Published semi-annually.
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from NE



View from NW

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

03-026-00014

Worcester
North

V

WOR.1046

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Town/City: Worcester

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Crown Hill

Address: 16 Congress Street

Historic Name: Joshua S. & Dorothy M. Wheeler House

Uses: Present: Multi-Family Residential

Original: Multi-Family Residential

Date of Construction: 1857

Source: historic maps & directories

Style/Form: Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: brick

Wall/Trim: wood clapboard

Asphalt shingle

Roof: slate shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:
none

Major Alterations (*with dates*):
Asphalt shingles added to walls

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: 0.1474

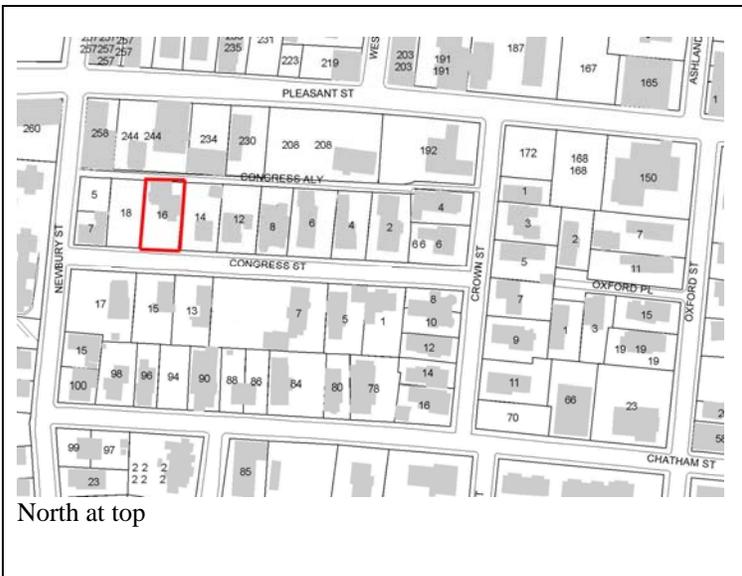
Setting: The Crown Hill neighborhood is situated on a promontory west of downtown Worcester. It has an irregular street pattern characteristic of its mid-19th-century origin with tight streetscapes of mostly wood frame single-family dwellings. Commercial, religious, school, industrial and multi-family residential buildings are located at the margins.

Photograph



View from S

Locus Map



North at top

Recorded by: Neil Larson & Kathryn Grover
Larson Fisher Associates

Organization: City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): June 2010

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

16 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Joshua S. & Dorothy M. Wheeler House is a two-and-a-half-story wood frame multiple-family dwelling with a cross gable roof. It is situated on a 0.1514-acre lot on the north side of Congress Street at the base of Crown Hill near Newbury Street. The lot is bordered on the east by houses of similar age and the west by a vacant lot, the site of a demolished house. The house is set back from the street with its front façade thickly screened from view by overgrown evergreens. The large building's footprint extends out to the rear and side lot lines. A stockade fence enclosing the neighboring lot follows the east lot line, and a stone retaining wall topped by a picket fence is aligned with the west lot line. The rear line is demarcated by a chain link fence erected on the adjacent lot. Congress Alley once ran along the rear (north) boundary, but it no longer exists; there is no other vehicular access to the property, and there are no outbuildings.

The building has irregular floor and roof plans and appears to have evolved through a number of stages that altered an original single-family dwelling into a four-family house between 1857 and 1900. One theory purports that the original house was jacked up and a new first story was added beneath it, although this has not been documented. There are two principal square-plan sections: a front house and a rear service wing connected to the northwest corner. The size of the front section may be the result of accommodating Josiah S. and Dorothy Wheeler's multi-generational extended family; the rear section may have been where Joshua S. Wheeler began boarding young men working in his machine tool shop. The increasing size and elaboration also reflects his growing stature in the community.

The house presents gables on the front and sides, which are ornamented with scroll-sawn verge boards; the west side of the rear wing also has a gable. The front and east sides each has a three-story bay window with gable roof aligned with the main gable roofline. A similar feature is located on the gabled wall on the west side of the wing. The rear wing intersects the west wall of the house in an awkward manner. The gable on the front (south) wall of the wing meets the gable on the west wall of the house at a point that bisects both gables creating a complex arrangements of angles in that section. The main entrance is contained in the bay window pavilion on the east side of the front façade. An ornately decorated porch with intricate wood bracework along the balustrade and frieze distinguishes the entrance and front façade and wraps around both east and west sides. The entrance and ground floor windows are capped with pediments, while upper story windows have simpler cornices. The original wood clapboard siding was at some later time covered with asphalt shingles; about half of these have been removed to expose the clapboards. Historic wood sash are generally intact.

The Joshua S. & Dorothy M. Wheeler House is a distinctive idiosyncratic example of a large Gothic Revival residence with multiple gable forms embellished with scroll-sawn verge boards and an ornate porch. It is one of the important architectural landmarks in the Crown Hill neighborhood.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The Crown Hill neighborhood is significant in the city as a mid nineteenth-century residential development area that is still distinguished by its original street and subdivision plans and period domestic architecture. The neighborhood was originally part of land owned in the early 1700s by Major Daniel Ward that extended west from Main Street to what is now Newbury Street between Pleasant and Austin Streets. In 1818 Benjamin Butman bought this 30-acre hillside tract from John Bush and his sons Jonas and Richard and hired the Boston engineer R. H. Eddy to survey it. Eddy's 1836 subdivision plan for "Park Hill," named for the park laid out in the middle of block between Oxford and Crown Streets, featured 30 x 150-foot lots along three new streets—Irving, Oxford, and Crown—running between Pleasant and Chandler streets. Lot sales ranged from \$85 to \$260, but the area

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

16 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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was slow to develop. During the panic of 1837 Butman's business failed, and Park Hill was sold off in numerous parcels. Isaac Davis, Worcester's mayor and president of the State Mutual Insurance Company, became the largest property owner in the area. He revised the 1836 plan by removing the park and intensifying the lot coverage, but not until the 1850s did the neighborhood begin to build up with the large and ornate homes of Worcester's middle class. Industrialization expanded and diversified the city's population, a change reflected in the course of Crown Hill's history. The neighborhood felt the decline of Worcester's fortunes in the twentieth century and in the 1970s became the target area for an ambitious revitalization project, one of the first to use the funding from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Coordinated by the Crown Hill Development Committee, a façade project was instituted to reverse the deterioration and abandonment of historic buildings in the neighborhood. The city invested community development funds to stem the decline of buildings and infrastructure. The Worcester Heritage Society (now Preservation Worcester) created a revolving loan fund to support rehabilitation work. The society also began to purchase abandoned buildings to stabilize and resell with covenants. The core of this neighborhood was listed as a historic district on the National Register of Places in 1976, and the district was expanded in 1980. The effort has resulted in the renaissance of this significant grouping of mid nineteenth-century architecture in Worcester.

The house at 16 Congress Street was built about 1857 for the machinist Joshua S. Wheeler. Born in Fitchburg about 1830, Wheeler was working as an apprentice in Worcester and boarding on Summer Street by 1847. In Ashburnham in 1853 he married Dorothy M. Leathers, a native of Ashburnham and daughter of farmer John Leathers and his wife Almy. By 1860 Wheeler's 16 Congress Street household included his wife, their two young children Eugene and Carrie, his brother Asa, who also worked as a machinist, and George Leathers, a machinist and an older brother of Dorothy Leathers Wheeler. At that time the census shows Wheeler with real estate valued at four thousand dollars, and he was clearly sufficiently affluent to afford a live-in domestic servant, thirty-five-year-old Lavinia Marble.

By 1870 Dorothy Wheeler's parents had moved to Worcester and shared the 16 Congress with her and her family. The census that year shows Joshua Wheeler as a "machinists' tool manufacturer," and the city directory shows Joshua S. Wheeler and Company at 3 Hermon Street. At that time Wheeler's brother Asa N. Wheeler and Orange Wheeler, whose relation if any to Joshua Wheeler is not yet known, were principals of the firm. In 1870 Joshua Wheeler owned six thousand dollars of real estate and an equal amount of personal property. By 1890 he had divided the house into three units and rented the first and third floors, and by 1900 a fourth unit was created from the space, and between 1890 and 1910 tenants turned over fairly often at 16 Congress Street.

Joshua S. Wheeler owned and occupied 16 Congress Street until about 1913, when he moved to Smithville, New Hampshire. He probably sold the property in that year to Joseph A. and Henrietta A. Perry. Joseph Perry, born in New York about 1875, ran a lunch wagon on Pleasant Street and lived at 16 Congress in 1913; by 1920, when the census shows him as owner of the property, he managed real estate for a living. His wife Henrietta was born in Canada and came to the United States between 1896 and 1900. The Perrys occupied the property with their son Joseph and two other families in 1920, and by 1930 Henrietta Perry is shown without her husband and son in the 16 Congress household but with two male roomers. She rented two units in the house, one to photographic engraver Martin J. King and his family and the other to roofing company office worker Edward D. Cleary and his family.

Perry owned 16 Congress through at least 1960 but no longer lived there by 1940. By 1970 Carl H. Linderholm owned the property.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA

(CD = city directory, HD = house directory, M = map, C = census)

1857CD Wheeler Joshua S. machinist, h. 16 Congress FIRST INSTANCE
 1847CD Wheeler Joshua S. apprentice bds. 5 Summer
 1853HD Wheeler Joshua S. machinist, bds. Charleton
 1853VR Ashburnham: married 5 Sept Joshua S. Wheeler b Fitchburg res Worcester ae 23 machinist
 father Lewis Wheeler to Dorothy M. Leathers b/res Ashburnham ae 19 father John Leathers

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

16 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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- 1860C Joshua S. Wheeler 30 machinist \$4000/\$700 b MA; wife Dorothy M. Wheeler 26 b MA; children Eugene L 4 and Carrie M. Wheeler 3/12, both b MA; boarder Asa N Wheeler 25 machinist b MA; border George E Leathers 20 machinist b MA; Lavinia R. Marble 35 domestic
- 1870M J.S. Wheeler
- 1870CD Wheeler Joshua S. & Co. (Asa N. & Orange Wheeler), manufacturers of machinists' tools and jobbing, 3 Hermon, h 16 Congress
- 1870C Wheeler Joshua S. 40 Machinists tool manufacturer, \$6000/\$6000
Wheeler Dorthea M 36 keeping house
Wheeler Carrie M 10 at school
Wheeler Minnie M 4 at home
Leathers John 71 retired farmer
Leathers Almy G 63 no occupation
- 1872SD 16, ho., Joshua S. Wheeler, (J.S. Wheeler & Co.), machinists' tools mfr., 25 Hermon
- 1886M J.S. Wheeler
- 1890HD Whittle James H. tinsmith 1
Wheeler Joshua S. machinist 2
Hunt J.W. asst. postmaster 3
J.S. Wheeler, bld. \$5000; 6420 ft. \$2200
- 1896M J.S. Wheeler
- 1900HD Wheeler J.S. Mr. & Mrs. 2
Hoit Lora B. machinist 3
Hoit L.B. Mrs. church visitor
Hoit Ellen B. Miss, b.
Gates Edith M. Miss, b.
Williams Albert G. 4
Williams Fannie A. teacher, b,
Williams Minnie A. Miss, b.
Wheeler Joshua S. bld. \$5000; 6420 ft. \$2600
- 1910HD Wheeler Joshua S tool mfr 1
Wheeler Dorothy M Mrs
Penniman A Louise teacher 2
Newell Annie W teacher b
Chapin Emma A Miss b
Porter Frederick M Mr & Mrs 3 (engineer, 107 Foster)
Shaw John W Mr & Mrs 4 (driver)
Wheeler Joshua S. bld. \$5000; 6420 ft. \$2200
- 1910C 1 Wheeler Joshua S head 80 m. 55 yrs retired
Wheeler Dorothy M wife 76 1 of 4 children living
2 Porter Fred M had 48 m 27 yrs stationary engineer b VT
Porter Cora E wife 1 of 1 child living b VT
3 Shaw John W head 25 m 3 yrs teamster express co

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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-
- 4 Shaw Edith J wife 25 0 children
Clifford Irma E boarder 20 single stitcher corset shop
Chapin Emma A head 82 single
Penniman Abbie L niece 52 schoolteacher b CT
Newell Anna W boarder 48 schoolteacher
- 1911M J.W. Wheeler
- 1922M H.A. Perry
- 1922HD Perry Joseph A Mr & Mrs (real estate)
Powers Clarence b (insp 35 Harvard – N.E. Power Co)
Siltz John W 9woodworker)
Kresback Martin b
Valva Leonora M Mrs (widow John B)
Valva Fred D b (music teacher, 306 Main, rm 444)
Valva Ernest S b (designer)
Valva Joseph A b (civil engineer, Boston)
Valva Carmela b (designer)
Preston Reid C
Preston George A Mrs b
Perry Henrietta A. bld. \$7000; 6420 ft. \$2200; also owns 253 & 257 Pleasant St.
- 1930HD Perry Henrietta Mrs
Dolan Thomas r coremaker, 81 Thomas, Holyoke Machine Co water wheel mfrs
Kresbach Martin r cabinetmaker
King Martin J router 44 Portland (Printers Bldg)
Cleary Edward D (Della) roofer
Skelhome Thomas E. bld. \$10000; 6420 ft. \$2200; also owns 29 William (Helen E) mason & contractor, 4 Avalon Pl, h do
- 1930C 1 Henrietta A Perry owns \$11,000 ae 54 b Eng Canada emig 1900 no occup, roomers Marin Krebsbach ae 55 divorced b IN woodworker and Thomas J Doland ae 42 b MA coremaker foundry
2 Martin J King rents \$60 b Eng emig 1914 engraver photograph, wife Mary ae 29 b MA, children Thomas J 7, John G 3, Paul J 3 mos
3 Edward D Cleary rents \$23 ae 31 b MA roofer officeman, wife Delia M ae 32 b MA, children Edward D 3 b CA Richard J 1 b MA
- 1940HD Duplin Ferdinand J (Henrietta P)
Simons Abr
Davis Charlivine B Mrs tchr Becker College
Davis Willard R r clerk
Fortin Henry A (Florence G) chauffeur
Perry Henrietta A. bldg \$7500; 6420 ft. \$1800
- 1950HD Duplin Ferdinand J
Mercen Louis C
Shead Gilbert E
Livingston John
Perry Henrietta A. bldg \$7500; 6420 ft. \$1700
- 1960HD Duplin Henrietta A Mrs

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Jones Gertrude H Mrs
Hanna Robt
Cardinal Hazel G Mrs
Burke Vernon L r
Perry Henrietta A. house \$7500; 6420 ft. \$1700

1970HD Jarrett Paul Jr
Cordon Irene M
Linderholm Carl H. \$6500; 6420 ft. \$1000; also owns 50 Cedar

1984HD Barnes Sherry
Lozaraitis Susan H
Aviles Hector
Bernstein Robt
Conner Lydia L
Delaney Joan M
Fortune John
Kenmuir Annette
Rios Anthony
Congress Alley Reconstruction Corp. apt hse, \$19,700; 6420 ft. \$12,800

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- The Worcester House Directory*. Worcester: Sampson & Murdock Co., 1920-1938. Published semi-annually.
- The Worcester House Directory*. Boston, then Malden: R.L. Polk & Co., 1939- . Published semi-annually.
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980

PHOTOGRAPHS (Neil Larson, 2009)



View from SE



View from W

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980



View from S



View from SW

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

WORCESTER

16 CONGRESS STREET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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NRDIS 5/6/1976 & 3/5/1980



View from N

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	WOR.2859
Historic Name:	Stone, Lewis C. - Parker, Edward House
Common Name:	LeClair, Joseph H. - Boardman, James E. House
Address:	17-19 Congress St
City/Town:	Worcester
Village/Neighborhood:	Piedmont
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	C 1870
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B – BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

	WORCESTER NORTH		2859
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Town Worcester

Place (*neighborhood or village*)

Piedmont

Address 17-19 Congress Street

Historic Name Lewis C. & Abbie E. Stone House

Uses: Present Multiple family dwelling

Original Multiple family dwelling

Date of Construction c. 1870

Source City & House Directories; city atlases

Style/Form Gothic Revival

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim wood clapboard siding

Roof asphalt shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures none

Major Alterations (*with dates*)

Condition good

Moved no yes **Date**

Acreage 5,543 sq. ft.

Setting

The building is located on the south side of Congress Street near its terminus at Newbury Street at the western base of Crown Hill. The area along Newbury Street and west is characterized by detached wood frame two- and three-story multiple family dwellings. Crown Hill to the east is older with more single family dwellings.

Recorded by Larson Fisher Associates
P.O. Box 1394
Woodstock NY 12498

Organization City of Worcester Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*) August 2005

RECEIVED

SEP 30 2005



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town
WORCESTER

Property Address
17-19 CONGRESS ST.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The two-family dwelling at 17-19 Congress Street is composed of 1 ½-story wood frame cottages abutted perpendicularly so that one fronts north on Congress Street and the other west to what is now a vacant lot on the corner of Congress and Newbury streets. The south side of the house is elevated on a high brick foundation to compensate for the sloping site at the base of Crown Hill.

The Congress Street façade has three-bays on the first floor with an entrance on the east side and two floor length windows opening on the porch; there are two windows in the attic level. A full front porch has a shed roof and retains its distinctive Gothic Revival-style posts, braces, and balustrade. There are narrow verge boards on the raking edge of the roof with decorative bracing in the peak and at the eaves. Side walls have regular fenestration and two gable roof broken-eave wall dormers on each with bracing similar to the front façade. The second cottage abuts perpendicularly to the rear (south) end of the first. Its west façade is similar to the Congress Street front except that instead of a full front porch, there is a simple but ornamental shed roof hood over the entrance. A recent wood deck has been added in front of the door and on the south side of the house. There are a pair of gable roof broken eave wall dormers on the south side also. The rear (east) gable end of the rear section is also decorated.

The house retains a high degree of significant architectural decoration and represents an unusual pairing of 1 ½-story cottages to intensify the housing potential of the site. Instead of stacking up the sections in the more typical manner of building two-family houses, they were spread out horizontally and arranged in a clever way.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

The existing property on the southeast corner of Congress and Newbury streets with a single dwelling numbered 17-19 Congress Street contained three house lots until sometime in the 1970s when the buildings with addresses 19 Congress and 13 Newbury were destroyed. Those house lots have been landscaped and are now part of the side yard of 17-19 Congress Street. All three houses were built in the 1870s when residential development spread westward from Crown Hill and new streets, such as Newbury, Merrick and Russell were platted. The Victorian Gothic design embellishments on the house associate its construction with this period.

None of the three houses at the corner of Congress and Newbury were labeled with their owners' names on the 1870 map. In 1886 the existing house at 17 Congress was associated with a Mrs. Hovey and the now absent

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house at 19 Congress with C.E. Parker; the house at 13 Newbury remained anonymous. Mrs. Hovey appeared in the city directory as the widow of Silas; she boarded at 23 Wachusett Street in 1885 and 2 Goulding Street in 1886. Silas Hovey's name does not appear in any city directory nor is there a clear indication of either Mary's or Silas's identities in the U.S. Census. The city directory indicates that Lewis C. Stone was living at 17 Congress Street in 1886, and he is recorded as the owner of the house in the 1890 house directory. Charles E. Parker was a florist with greenhouses on Parker Avenue near the city line. His son Edward Parker, a carpenter, first appears as an occupant of the two-family house in the 1887 city directory.

Lewis C. Stone was a machinist who worked in the Rice & Fales Co. machine shop in 1886. He and his family, which consisted of his wife, Abbie E.; son Albert J.; and daughter, Carrie M., moved to Worcester from nearby Sutton in the 1850s. Lewis was 62 years of age in 1886 and at the end of his working life; he had been recorded as being a machinist since the 1850 census. Bookkeeper Albert W. Chapin and his Carrie were listed as tenants in the house from 1888 to 1900. By 1910 Albert J. Stone and his wife, Isabella, were occupying the house, along with a household headed by Charles H. Perron, an operator at the Houghton Mfg. Co., metal stampers, and, in the basement, dressmaker Annie E. Childs and her son, Harry.

In 1916 Joseph H. LeClair moved his family into the Stones' residence. Henry J. Perreault, a jeweler with a shop at 86 Front Street, had bought the property, but he conveyed it to LeClair by 1918. Both men were, evidently French Canadian, which may have been a factor in the unusual transaction. Joseph H. LeClair was recorded as a checker for Brewer & Co., wholesale druggists, in 1916 and as a foreman at the wire works in 1920. His household contained his wife, Rosilda, and children Isabelle and Joseph. There were three other households in the house in 1916. Two clerks, Albert J. Reinbold, Jr. and Allistair R. Tulloch, were assigned units numbered 2 and 3, respectively, in the house directory, and Eugene F. Swan, a published, was recorded in an apartment denoted 0, which like in 1910, presumably meant the basement that had its western wall exposed thanks to the sloping terrain of the lot. The 1920 census identified five separate households, two of which were given the address 17 1/2 Congress Street. This number, evidently for the rear or southern section of the house remained in use in the house directories until the 1950s when all the households were lumped under the number 17 again.

The LeClair family remained the house into the 1940s. Joseph died on September 20, 1929 at age 70. His wife, Rosilda assumed ownership, and her daughter, Isabelle, who worked as a stenographer for Stevens Walden Inc., tool manufacturers, in 1940, boarded there. During this time, there were always three other rental units in the house. Rosilda LeClair death likely prompted the sale of the property to real estate speculator Melbourne G. Bradley's wife, Augusta, by 1950. In that year, four new households were recorded in the house.

Charles E. Parker continued to own the house at 19 Congress Street well after 1890, even though his son, Edward, had left the scene. Stove dealer James E. Boadman, who lived two doors away at 13 Congress Street,

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had bought the house from Parker by 1910. He rented the two dwelling units to clerk John B. Barnes and widow Mary Wild in 1910 and wireworker Alvin H. Alden and Ellen Burnett in 1920. Charles and George Garabedian bought the house by 1930 and moved their large extended family into one of the flats. Mrs. Marion L. Anderson, a waitress, rented the other unit with John A. Crompton, a boarder. The house was owned in 1940 by Joseph J. Twitchess and in 1950 by Burton Epstein, et al., both absentee landlords.

The record of the two-story house at 13 Newbury Street was not compiled here, but like its neighbor at 19 Congress, it survived into the 1970s. Sometime later, both houses were demolished for reasons unknown and the lots merged with that with 17 Congress Street creating a large side yard and parking area for the house. The remaining house has remained essentially intact from its historic period.

SELECTED RESEARCH DATA*Maps*

- 1870 Present house indicated: no name
- 1878 Present house depicted
- 1886 Present house indicated: Mrs. Hovey
- 1896 Present house indicated: L.C. Stone
- 1911 Present house indicted: I.A. Stone
- 1922 Present house indicated: J. & R. LeClair

City & House Directories

- 1885 CD Hovey, Mary A., wid. Silas, bds. 23 Wachusetts FIRST APPEARANCE IN CD
- 1886 CD Hovey, Mary A. wid. Silas, bds. 2 Goulding
- 1890 HD 17 Stone Lewis C. machinist 1
Stone Albert J. boots & shoes, b.
Chapin Albert W. bookkeeper 2
Owner: Lewis C. Stone bld. \$2500; 5543 ft. \$1600
- 1886 CD: Stone Lewis W. mgr. 77 Foster (Rice & Fales Co. machinists & iron)
h. 17 Congress FIRST INSTANCE AT ADDRESS

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19 Foote Chas. W. horse dentist 1
Wheeler E.C. stitcher, b.
Parker Edward, carpenter 2
Owner: Chas E. Parker, bld. \$2000; 3203 ft. \$1300 [Holden, Mass]

1887 CD: Parker Edward, carpenter, h. 19 Congress
FIRST INSTANCE AT ADDRESS
Parker Charles E, florist Parker Ave. near city line house do.
LAST INSTANCE IN CITY

1900 HD 17 Stone Lewis C. Mr. & Mrs. 1
Chapin A.W. Mr. & Mrs. 2
Owner: Stone Lewis C. bld. \$3000; 5543 ft. \$1700
Also owns 4 New York (listed as "vacant house" in 1900)

19 Hawkins Benj. A. janitor 1
Kennard John H. barber 2
Everett Jennie O. Mrs. b.
Owner: Chas E. Parker (Holden), bld. \$2000; 3203 ft. \$1300

1910 HD 17 Stone Albert J. Mr. & Mrs. 1
Perron Charles H. Mr. & Mrs. 2 [*operator 89 Exchange (Houghton Mfg. Co. metal stampers)*]
Childs Annie E. dressmaker 0
Childs Harry A. manager, b.
Owner: Stone Isabella A. bld. \$2300; 5543 ft. \$1700

19 Barnes John B clerk 1
Wild Mary Mrs 3
Owner: Boardman James E. bld. \$1800; 3203 ft. \$1300; also owns 13 Congress
[*Boardman James E stoves 30 Pleasant house 13 Congress*]

1916 HD 17 LeClair Joseph H. 1 [*checker 221 Commercial (Brewer & Co. whsl druggists)*]
Reinbold Albert J. jr. clerk 2
Tulloch Allistair R. clerk 3
Swan Eugene F. publisher 0
Owner: Perreault Henry J. \$2300; 5543 ft. \$1700
[*Lajoie Sons & Perreault Co. jeweler, 86 Front h. 753 Pleasant*]

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- 1918 HD Owner: Leclair Joseph & Rosilda \$2300; 5543 ft. \$1700
- 1920 HD 19 Alden Alvin H [*wireworker*]
 Alden Joseph [*driver 140 Commercial (Worcester Truck Co.)*]
 [*Alden, Helen E comptometer opr bds 19 Congress*]
 Burnett Ellen
 Owner: Boardman James E. bld. \$1800; 3203 ft. \$1300; also 13 Congress, 77 Chatham
- 1930 HD 17 LeClair Rosilda Mrs. [*Jos. H. died Sept. 20, 1929 age 70*]
 LeClair Isabelle L. r. [*clerk*]
 McLaughlin John [*(Nellie) wireworker*]
 Vandal M. Louise Mrs.
 Vandal Isabel B. r. [*clerk 10 New Bond (Heald Machine Co.)*]
 17 ½ Hemenway Hattie Mrs.
 Pursey Mary R. Mrs. *chiroprapist, h.*
 Owner: Leclair Joseph A. & Rosilda \$5500; 5543 ft. \$1700
 Also owns 16 Columbus & 80 Lowell
- 19 Anderson Marion L Mrs [*waitress*]
 Crompton John A r
 Garabedian Joseph [*clerk*]
 Garabedian Charles r [*(Charles Cap Co) 56 Green*]
 Garabedian George r [*clerk*]
 Garabedian Arisdokis r [*(Elizabeth)*]
 Bouffard Frank O [*(exilla) textile worker*]
 Owner: Garabedian Charles and George bld. \$4500; 3203 ft. \$1300
- 1940 HD 17 LeClair Rosilda Mrs. [*wid. Jos. A.*]
 LeClair Isabelle L. r. [*steno Stevens Walden Inc. tool mfrs.*]
 Hunter Fred [*(Maude L.)*]
 Henry Everett L. [*(Carrie M.) shoe worker*]
 17 ½ Lourie John P.
 Owner: Leclair Rosilda \$5000; 5543 ft. \$1200

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19 Beatty Jas R *[(Eliz H) clk Huylers Luncheonette Inc (501 Main)]*
Coonan Wm
Bonneau Oscar W
Owner: Twitchess Joseph J trus. bld. \$4500; 3203 ft. \$1000

1950 HD 17 Eno Leon A *[(Mabel M.) foreman]*
Taylor Saml *[(Helen E.) weaver M.J. Whittall Assoc. carpet mfrs
955 Southbridge]*
Guyette Clifton L. *[(Viola)]*
Haverty Margt M.
Owner: Bradley Augusta I, trus. \$5000; 5543 ft. \$1300
[wife of Melbourne G. Bradley, real estate, 126 May h. do]

19 Beatty Jas R
Bonneau Oscar W
Bonneau Wm O r
Evearts Sylvia M Mrs
Remick Jerome r
Owner: Epstein Burton et al, bld. \$4500; 3203 ft. \$900
[(Carol R) asst mgr Louis Epstein (pants mkr) h 168 Mayfield]

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see continuation sheet

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

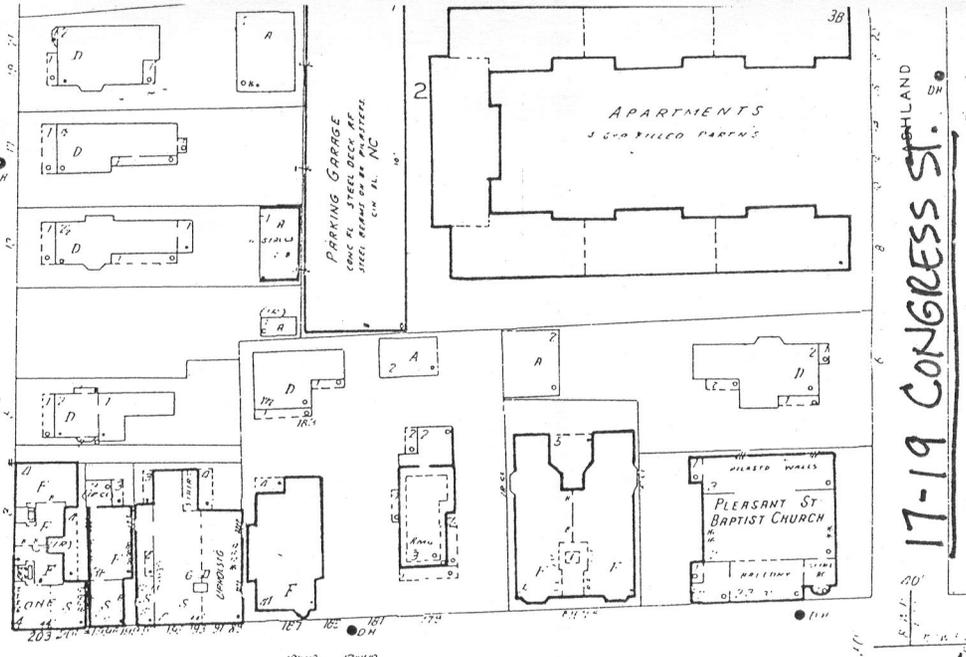
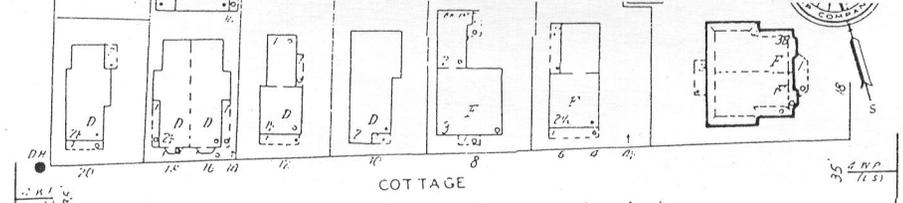
- Individually eligible Eligible **only** in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

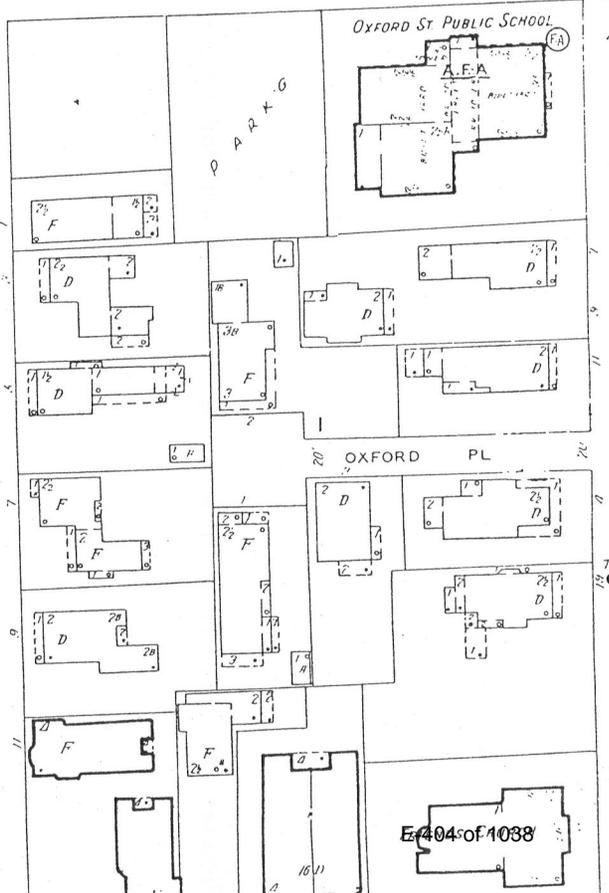
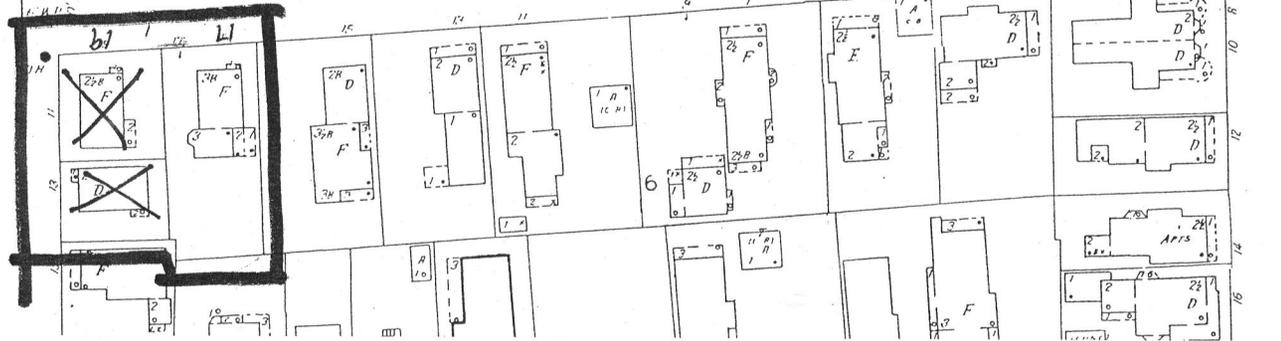
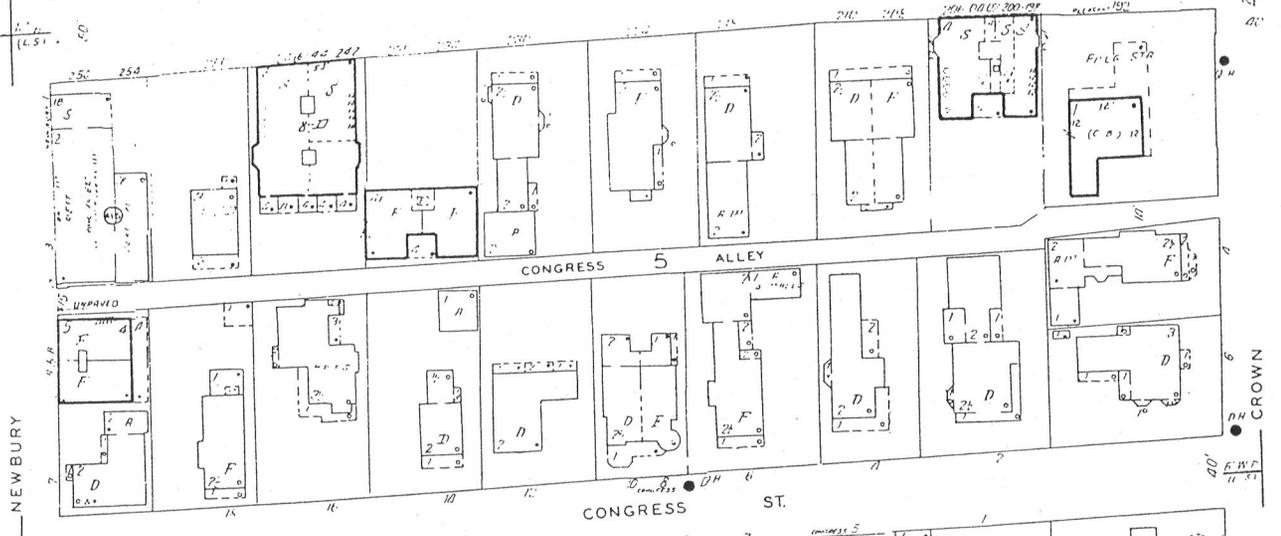
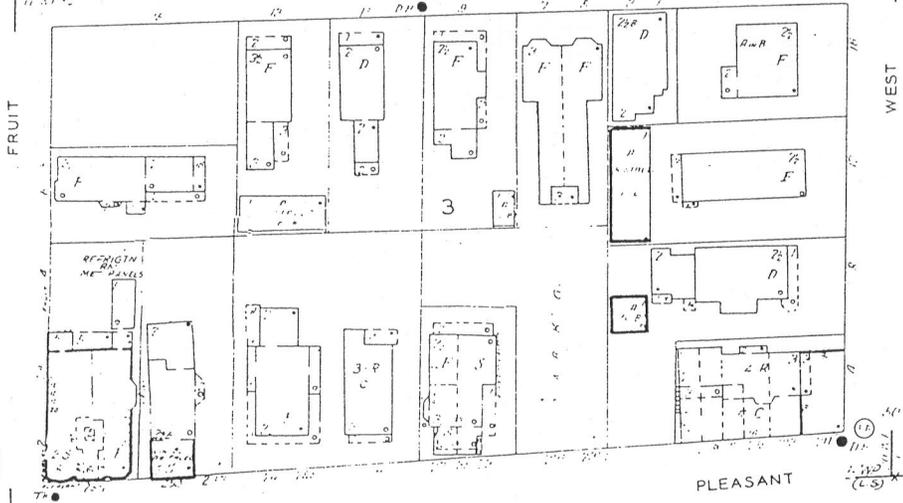
Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by Neil Larson
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The Lewis C. & Abbie E. Stone House at 17-19 Congress Street is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of Victorian Gothic Revival cottage with intact exterior materials and ornamentation. Built c. 1870, notable are verge boards and Stick Style bracing in the gable ends; ornate porch railings and brackets; and decorated dormers. The double cottage plan is also unusual, essentially joining two 1 1/2-story wood frame cottage forms perpendicularly at the rear of the main house facing Congress Street.



17-19 CONGRESS ST.



E 404 of 1038

