MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF WORCESTER

Thursday, February, 17, 2022


Commissioners Present: Devon Kurtz, Chair
Diane Long, Vice-Chair
Janet Theerman, Clerk
Randolph Bloom
Tomi Stefani
Erika Helnarski, Alternate
Steven Taylor, Alternate

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Michelle Johnstone, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services (DPRS)
Stephen S. Rolle, Division of Planning & Regulatory Services (DPRS)

The February 17, 2022 Historical Commission meeting was held remotely

Call Commission to Order – 5:30 PM

Other Business
A. Review of properties recommended for inclusion in the proposed Elm Park Local Historic District preliminary study report.

Ms. Johnstone gave an overview of the intent of the evening’s meeting, which was to review the integrity ratings of properties recommended for inclusion in the proposed Elm Park Local Historic District.

The Commission evaluated the properties in slides 5–84 (labeled as 113–192 given that the slides were a continuation of an earlier meeting) in Exhibit A. They agreed with the recommendations of staff for most properties, but recommended the following amendments to ratings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Rating Recommended by Staff</th>
<th>Rating Recommended by Commission</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>152 Russell Street</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Somerset Street</td>
<td>Fair to Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Somerset Street</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Somerset Street</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Fair to Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58 West Street</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56 William Street</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

February 17, 2022
After completion of review of the properties, Ms. Johnstone described the next steps in the process to create the proposed local historic district.

**List of Exhibits**

Exhibit A. Slide deck shown at meeting.

**Adjournment**

Upon a roll call vote the Commission voted 7-0 to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m.
EXHIBIT A

WORCESTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

February 17, 2022
Remote Participation Options

• To participate remotely during the public comment portion of the meeting, please call 415-655-0001 (Access Code: 160 808 1191). If you have difficulty accessing the call, please e-mail planning@worcesterma.gov.

• If you’re participating via phone, you may **mute, or unmute, your phone line by dialing *6** and you may **raise, or lower, your hand by dialing *3**.

• You may also **join via WebEx at:** https://cow.webex.com/meet/historicalcommissionwebex.
Rating Descriptions*

**Excellent:** No permanent, irreversible changes to historic core of building; no non-copacetic additions.

**Very Good:** Generally, buildings have experienced minimal alterations or alterations with aesthetically historically sensitive materials. Examples might include buildings with replaced porch supports, or one or two major exterior elements, like roof and/or windows, having been replaced while still retaining character-defining decorative features and at least one major exterior element, such as siding.

**Good:** Generally, buildings have experienced alterations up to and including replacement of siding, windows, and roof, while still being easily recognizable as a historic building of a particular style and retaining at least one original or historic exterior building element, such as lintels, cornice, etc.

**Fair:** Generally, buildings have had all exterior historic fabric replaced, but still are recognizable as a particular architectural style.

**Poor:** Generally altered beyond recognition.

*In addition to retention of original or historic fabric, condition of the building is also taken into consideration when assigning an appropriate rating.*
113. 124 Russell Street, looking northeast. Integrity rating: good
114. 128 Russell Street, house and garage, looking northeast. Integrity rating: good
115. 132 Russell Street, house and garage, looking northeast.
Integrity rating: good
136 Russell Street house and garage, looking northeast. Integrity rating: fair
117. 140 Russell Street house and garage, looking northeast. Integrity rating: fair
118. 144 Russell Street house and garage, looking northeast.
Integrity rating: good
119. 148 Russell Street, house and garage, looking northeast.
Integrity rating: fair
120. 152 Russell Street, house and garage, looking northeast. Integrity rating: good
121. 156 Russell Street, looking east.
Integrity rating: very good
160 Russell Street, looking northeast.
Integrity rating: very good
164 Russell Street, looking east. 
Integrity rating: very good
25 Sever Street, looking southeast.
Integrity rating: fair
26 Sever Street, looking northeast.

Integrity rating: good
27 Sever Street, looking west.
Integrity rating: very good
127. 28 Sever Street, looking northeast.
Integrity rating: very good
128. Parking lot at 29 Sever Street, looking northwest. Integrity rating: N/A
129. 30 Sever Street, looking southeast.
Integrity rating: very good
36 Sever Street, looking east.
Integrity rating: very good
38 Sever Street, looking northwest.
Integrity rating: very good
132. 41 Sever Street, looking northwest. Integrity rating: very good
47 Sever Street, looking southwest.
Integrity rating: excellent
48 Sever Street, looking southeast.

Integrity rating: very good
51 Sever Street, looking south from quad.
Integrity rating: Excellent (non-historic)
61 Sever Street, looking northwest from quad. Integrity rating: very good
137. 61 Sever Street, looking southwest.
Integrity rating: very good
138. Commemorative marker, quad between 51 and 61 Sever Street, looking southwest.
139. 69 Sever Street, looking northeast.
Integrity rating: very good
7 Somerset Street, looking southwest.

Integrity rating: fair to good
141. 9 Somerset Street, looking southwest.
Integrity rating: fair to good
12 Somerset Street, looking east.
Integrity rating: very good
143. 15 Somerset Street, looking northwest.
Integrity rating: very good
144. 16 Somerset Street, looking northeast. Integrity rating: fair
17–19 Somerset Street, house and garage, looking southwest.

Integrity rating: fair
20 Somerset Street, looking southeast.
Integrity rating: fair to good
22 Somerset Street, looking east.
Integrity rating: fair
23 Somerset Street, looking southwest.

Integrity rating: fair to good
149. 24 Somerset Street, looking southeast. Integrity rating: fair
25 Somerset Street, looking southwest.
Integrity rating: very good
26-28 Somerset Street, house and garage, looking northeast.

Integrity rating: good
152. 27 Somerset Street, looking southwest.
Integrity rating: fair to good
153. 30 Somerset Street, looking northeast.
Integrity rating: poor
32 Somerset Street, looking southeast.

Integrity rating: very good
33 Somerset Street, looking southwest.

Integrity rating: poor to fair
156. 34 Somerset Street, looking east.
Integrity rating: fair
35 Somerset Street, looking west.
Integrity rating: good
36 Somerset Street, looking southeast.
Integrity rating: poor
159. 37 Somerset Street, house and garage, looking northwest. Integrity rating: very good
160.41 Somerset Street, looking southwest. Integrity rating: very good
42 Somerset Street, looking southeast.

Integrity rating: very good
162. 44 Somerset Street, looking southeast.
Integrity rating: good
163. 45 Somerset Street, house and garage, looking southeast. Integrity rating: very good
44 West Street, looking southwest.
Integrity rating: excellent (non-historic)
165. 54 West Street, looking northwest.
Integrity rating: excellent
166. 58 West Street, looking northwest.
Integrity rating: good
Parking lot at 62 West & 49 William Street, looking south from William Street. Integrity rating: N/A
168. 72 West Street, looking west.
Integrity rating: fair
169. 48 William Street (L) and 72 West Street (R), looking northwest. Integrity rating: Good, Fair
170. 50 William Street, looking north. Integrity rating: good
171. 51 William Street, looking southwest. Integrity rating: good
172. 52 William Street, house and carriage house, looking north. Integrity rating: good
53 William Street, house and garage, looking southwest.
Integrity rating: fair
54 William Street, looking north.
Integrity rating: good
56 William Street, looking north.
Integrity rating: very good
176. 60 William Street, looking northwest.
Integrity rating: very good
177. 61 William Street, looking southwest. Integrity rating: very good
62–64 William Street, looking northeast.

Integrity rating: very good
66 William Street, looking north.
Integrity rating: very good
180. 74 William Street, looking northwest. Integrity rating: excellent
181. 75 William Street, looking south. Integrity rating: good
182. 79 William Street, house and garage, looking southeast.
Integrity rating: very good
183. 80 William Street, looking northwest from William Street. Integrity rating: excellent
184. 80 William Street, looking west from Roxbury Street. (Well differentiated and reversible addition)
185. 81 William Street, looking southeast.
Integrity rating: excellent
186. 84 William Street, looking northeast.
Integrity rating: very good
187. 85 William Street, looking southwest. Integrity rating: excellent
87 William Street, looking south.
Integrity rating: excellent
89 William Street, looking south.
Integrity rating: good
190. 93 William Street, house and garage, looking southwest.
Integrity rating: very good
191. 96 William Street, looking northwest.
Integrity rating: very good (assuming fire damage mitigation measures)
192. 98 William Street, looking northeast.
Integrity rating: very good
**Sample Motions**

*If no changes are requested:* The Commission hereby approves the properties and their associated ratings recommended by city staff for inclusion in the preliminary study report for the proposed Elm Park Local Historic District.

*If changes are requested:* The Commission hereby approves the properties and their associated ratings for inclusion in the preliminary study report for the proposed Elm Park Local Historic District, as recommended by city staff and further amended by the Worcester Historical Commission during the course of this meeting.