

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

NR 3/5/80

R. Grafton

In Area no. CR	Form no. 1258 143-J
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USGS - N. WOR
MRA - IND

1. Town Worcester

Address 53 Waverly Street



Name Arad Alexander House

Present use residence

Present owner Kazimir and Teofile Simulynas

Description: ca. 1845

Source exterior architecture

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features temple front, Corinthian columns & pilasters, egg & dart and tongue & dart mouldings, window hoods with console

Altered siding Date mid-20th century

Moved yes Date 1867-1868

5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 4, p.25
Lot 29 7,358 sq.ft.
One acre or less Over one acre

Approximate frontage 50'

Approximate distance of building from street 15'

6. Recorded by B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date December 1977

(over)

SOUTH ELEVATION

UTM: 19/269640/4681830

7. Original owner (if known) Arad Alexander - first known - 1868

Original use residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal | _____ | Conservation | _____ | Recreation | _____ |
| Agricultural | _____ | Education | _____ | Religion | _____ |
| Architectural | _____ | Exploration/
settlement | _____ | Science/
invention | _____ |
| The Arts | <u>x</u> | Industry | _____ | Social/
humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce | _____ | Military | _____ | Transportation | _____ |
| Communication | _____ | Political | _____ | | |
| Community development | _____ | | | | |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Alexander House is one of the most elaborately decorated examples of Greek Revival architecture in Worcester. The house is a two-storey frame structure set on a rock-faced granite foundation. The building's side-hall (three-bay) facade is masked by a temple front consisting of four Corinthian columns, supporting a pediment framed by an entablature and cornice with modillions. Exceptionally fine are the house's carved details; i.e., Corinthian capitals on columns and corner pilasters, tongue and dart mouldings, acanthus modillions, window hoods on consoles and a Corinthian entry; these elaborate details are suggestive of the work of Elias Carter, architect/builder, although at present no connection between Carter and the Alexander House is known to exist.

The early history of the Alexander House is unknown, as the house was moved to its present site in 1867-1868 for Arad Alexander, a "truckman" and owner of the firm of Alexander & Martin. Examination of maps and photographs of the surrounding area have not revealed the building's original location or its original owner; however, it is likely that the house was one of many moved from downtown Worcester in the 1850s and 1860s as the commercial district expanded into former residential neighborhoods. Alterations to ^{the} house consist of a new front door and wooden shingling, neither of which interferes with the building's important features.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

City atlases and directories

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

NR IND/MRA 3/5/80 ^{work} #1258

Community: Worcester	Form No: 143-J(X)
Property Name: Alexander-Fine House 53 Waverley Street	

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

Recorded by S. Ceccacci, M. O'Keefe, ed. S. Ceccacci
Date: September 1983

After the house was sold by Alexander about 1906, it housed four families for a short period. Thereafter, it served as a two-family dwelling. Between 1909 and 1926, its owner and one of its occupants was Samuel Fine, a dealer in real estate, who was known as the Judge of Waverley Street." According to his obituary, Fine served as judge for the Jewish community in money, property, and other disputes. Also said to have been a "friend to those in trouble," he was often an initiator of collections for the needy and responded generously to requests by others for the support of such causes. Fine was a founder of Teferris Israel Synagogue. He was a director of the Jewish Home for the Aged and Orphans and was active in other Jewish charities. Fine died in 1926 at the age of seventy-two. The heading of his obituary read: "Judge of Waverley Street Mourned by Hundreds. Death of Samuel Fine, Patriarch of District, Is Deeply Felt By Friends He Advised And Helped - Throngs Gather To Pray For Him."

BIBLIOGRAPHY
directories

obituary Samuel Fine, no cite, April 30, 1926, clippings, WHM

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