

FORM B - BUILDING

NR 3/5/80

Pl. Belmont - Lincoln

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

MRAWD

In Area no. CR	Form no. 103-L 412
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NORTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS

1. Town Worcester

Address 22 Oak Avenue

Name D. Wheeler Swift House

Present use interns' residence

Present owner Memorial Hospital  
119 Belmont St.

Description: 1879-1880

Source building notice & Directories

Style Victorian Gothic

Architect Stephen Earle

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features bracketed porch with original railing, corner entry, gables with decorative aprons, window hoods

Altered no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Assessor's Book 1, p.18

5. Lot size Lot A, 12,487 sq.ft.

One acre or less  Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate frontage 70'

Approximate distance of building from street 20'

6. Recorded by S. Lee, ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.

Date January 1978

UTM: 19/269625/4683680

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) D. Wheeler Swift  
 Original use residence  
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates interns' residence (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Built in 1879-1880, the Swift House is an unaltered example of its period, bearing elements of Victorian Gothic and Stick Style design. Two and one-half stories high, the house's facade (west) is dominated by a steep gable with decorative bargeboards and apron, elements which are repeated on a smaller gable on the house's north elevation. An unusual detail of the design, is the house's entry which is set at a 45 degree angle to the buildings north and west elevations. On either side of the entry is an original porch with open braces and geometric railing. Other original details include window caps, granite stoop, and a low retaining wall of rock-faced granite along the property's Oak Avenue and Kendall Street fronts.

D. Wheeler Swift (1840-1910) was a native of West Falmouth, Massachusetts, who came to Worcester in 1864 to operate envelope-making machinery at the newly formed Bay State Envelope Company. Together with his brother, Henry D. Swift, D. Wheeler Swift invented various envelope-making machines upon which the success of the Whitcomb Envelope Company and, later, the Logan, Swift and Brigham Envelope Company was based. In 1871, while employed by the Whitcomb Company, the Swift brothers invented machinery capable of producing 3,500 envelopes hourly, an amount far greater than that produced by existing equipment. Additional machinery invented by the brothers for automatically gumming envelopes (1876) and for automatic printing of envelopes, rapidly lowered production costs and led to the growth of the Whitcomb Company. Machinery invented by the Swifts was also exported

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)  
AABN, Vol. VI, 11/1/1879, p. VIII (bldg. notice)  
Plumber & Sanitary Engineer, Vol. II, 11/1/1879, p. 397 (bldg. notice).  
Rice, F. Worcester of 1898. pp. 481-483.  
Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester. pp. 198-201.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Worcester	Form No: 103-L
Property Name: D. Wheeler Swift	

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

9. Historical significance

to Scotland, England and Germany. In 1884, the Swift brothers withdrew from the Whitcomb Company to form the partnership of Logan, Swift and Brigham Envelope Company. By 1889, the new firm had constructed a factory on Grove Street, which was enlarged in 1897. In 1898, Logan, Swift and Brigham Company, along with nine other envelope manufacturers was merged into the newly formed United States Envelope Company of which D. Wheeler Swift was a director.