

NR 3/5/80

Pl. Downtown

MRA IND

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. <u>CF</u>	Form no. 112-A-1 721
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NORTH AND WEST ELEVATIONS



1. Town Worcester

Address 25 Union Street

Name Salisbury Factory Building-25
Union Street
Present use Factory & restaurant

Present owner A. J. Realty Co.
90 Grove Street, Worc.

Description:
Date 1879

Source date placque

Style elements of Victorian Gothic

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric red brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features sandstone string courses
& window trim; placque bearing initials
"S.S."; parapet with stepped central
section.

sash(4th storey)
Altered elevator shaft. Date 1978-79
added

Moved no Date _____

Assessors' Book 2, p. 1,
5. Lot size: Lot 19 13,176 sq.ft.

UTM: 19/269200/4683340

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 125'

Approximate distance of building from street

7'

6. Recorded by S. Ceccacci, S. Lee
& B.R. Pfeiffer
Organization WHPS

Date revised March 1979

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Stephen Salisbury III

Original use Factory

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates Same (restaurant added 1976)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

#25 Union Street is a five-storey brick factory building of rectangular plan (54' x 135') with its facade (west) on Union Street. Bearing simple trim, the facade displays Victorian Gothic elements in its buff sandstone string courses, corbelling, parapet and bracketed entry hood. Side walls of the building are unornamented and have evenly spaced windows of 9/9 sash set in brick surrounds with arched heads. Alterations to the building consist of a brick elevator shaft (north wall), modern sigle-pane sash (fourth storey) and a minor five-storey addition (south-east corner) all built in 1978-1979.

The building was one of three factories built by Stephen Salisbury III between 1876 and 1879 on the site of the Court Mills which had been built by his father, Stephen Salisbury II, between 1829 and 1832. The Court Mills were the first factories in Worcester which leased loft space and provided power to small manufacturers. The success of the system of ownership, which freed small companies from the expense of property ownership, set the pattern of Worcester's industrial development, a development dominated by many small firms based on their founders' inventions. Throughout the nineteenth century the Salisbury family played a major role in the city's industrial development by building factories to accommodate the city's growing industry. #25 Union Street was built by Stephen Salisbury III for the use of the Munroe Organ Reed Company which occupied the building from December of 1879 until 1889. During the 1890s the factory was occupied by the firm of Porter & Gardner, last manufacturers. In 1903 the building was sold by Salisbury and has since been occupied by a succession of small firms.

(cont.)

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

Plumber & Sanitary Engineer, Vol. II, 9/15/1879, p. 333 (building notice)

Worcester Columbian Tribute, p. 16.

Worcester Illustrated Business Guide (1881) p. 110.

Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester, p. 194.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

WOR 721

Community: Worcester	Form No: 117-A-1
Property Name: Salisbury Factory Building	

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

9.

The Munroe Organ Reed Company was established in 1860 and incorporated in 1869 when it employed ten men and occupied one half of a floor at #23-25 Herman Street, near the Junction Shop. Improvements in organ reed design were patented by the company and led to its gradual expansion in the early 1870s. During the last half of the 1870s, the company experienced rapid growth, based in part on the addition of new products including keyboards ("in Ivory and Celluloid"), bellows cloth, "Springs of every description") and "Stop Knobs". By 1881 the Munroe Organ Reed Company employed two hundred workmen at 25 Union Street and had manufactured more than 25,000,000 "Munroe Patent Organ Reeds". In addition, the firm produced 35,000 "Orguinettes" annually for the Mechanical OrguINETTE Company of New York. By 1889, changes in public taste had led to a decline in business and the disbandment of the firm.