

FORM B - BUILDING

NR 3/5/80

MRA INT

Downtown

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

In Area no. <u>CF</u>	Form no. <u>117-A-2</u> <u>722</u>
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1. Town Worcester

Address 49-51 Union Street

Name Salisbury Factory Building-49-51 Union Street

Present use commercial

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

Description:
1882

Source date placque

Style utilitarian industrial

Architect Stephen Earle

Exterior wall fabric red brick

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features granite placque bearing initials "S.S."; granite hood over double entry; corbelled cornice with central parapet and date placque.

Number of stories two storey
Altered addition Date 1886-1896

Moved no Date _____

Assessors' Book 2, p.1,
Lot size: Lot 20 - 19,517 sq.ft.

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 100'

Approximate distance of building from street

7'

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

Date Revised March 1979

(over)



WEST ELEVATION

UTM: 19/269210/4683300

7. Original owner (if known) Stephen Salisbury III

Original use factory

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates commercial (present)

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> x </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)

Designed by Stephen Earle, a prominent Worcester architect, and built in 1882, #49-51 Union Street is located at the northeast corner of Union and Market Streets. The building originally was trapezoidal in plan, with an ell at its northeast corner. The original portion of the building is three stories high with a flat roof, corbelled cornice, parapet (west facade) and undecorated granite trim. Between 1886 and 1896, a two storey brick addition was made to the building's Union Street facade. Designed by Stephen Earle, this addition included the structure's present double entry which is capped by a heavy granite hood set on granite consoles.

Built by Stephen Salisbury III, #49-51 Union Street stands south of the site of the Court Mills which was built by his father, Stephen Salisbury II, between 1829 and 1832. The Court Mills which were the first factories in Worcester to provide rental space and power for small manufacturers set the pattern for local industrial development and marked the beginning of the Salisbury family's long and important involvement in providing factory space for many of the city's major industries. Most factories built by Stephen Salisbury II and Stephen Salisbury III stood in the vicinity of Lincoln Square; however, re-development of the area in the mid-twentieth century has led to the demolition or alteration of virtually all of the Salisbury Factory Buildings, leaving #49-51 Union Street and #25 Union Street (see form 117-A-1) as the most significant evidence of the Salisbury family's influence on the area's development.

(cont.)

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

Worcester Historical Society. Biography file (Thomas Dodge)

Sanitary Engineer, vol. VII, 5/31/1883, p. 611 (building notice)

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. III, p. 63 (Washburn biography)

Washburn, C. Industrial Worcester, pp. 109-299.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

WOR 722

Community: Worcester	Form No: 117-A-2
Property Name: Salisbury Factory building	

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

9.

#49-51 Union Street was built for the Worcester Barbed Wire Fence Company, a firm which was founded in 1881 by Thomas H. Dodge (a prominent local patent lawyer and inventor who held patents on textile, papermaking and agricultural machinery) and by Charles Washburn. From its founding the firm was loosely connected with the Washburn & Moen Manufacturing Company (of which Charles Washburn's uncle, Ichabod, had been the founder), the city's largest industry. In 1883, Dodge was forced by his health to retire from the business, resulting in the purchase of the Worcester Barbed Wire Fence Company by Washburn & Moen which already held many barbed-wire patents and was the largest producer of barbed wire in the United States. As a result of the merger, Charles Washburn was made a director of the Washburn & Moen Company which continued to manufacture barbed wire at 49-51 Union Street until 1898, after which the building was rented by G.L. Brownell, an inventor and maker of twisting machinery for the manufacture of diverse materials ranging from silk thread to heavy ropes. In 1909 Brownell's business expanded to occupy the entire building which he had purchased from Stephen Salisbury's estate in 1908; Brownell's firm continued in this location until after World War I. At present #49-51 Union Street is rented to a variety of small firms.