

ref no 80000129

Demolished 1982

PL-University

FORM B - BUILDING

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

NR/AD 3/5/80
NR/MRA

In Area no. <u>CE</u>	Form no. <u>141-K</u> 1813
--------------------------	----------------------------------

OFFICE COPY
DO NOT REMOVE



wn Worcester

dress 839 Main Street

me E.T. Smith House (old name)

esent use club

esent owner Homer J. Wheaton, Post #479, Veterans of Foreign Wars

cription:

te 1889

Source city directories

le Queen Anne

chitect unknown

other buildings. Indicate north.

Exterior wall fabric clapboard & shingle

Outbuildings (describe) stable (1889)

Other features elaborately decorated

porches at 1st and 2d floors, oriel window with stained glass, stable with tower

Altered addition to north wall Date mid-20th century

Moved no Date

Lot size: Assessors' Book 6, p.30 Lot 22 13,691 sq.ft.

One acre or less Over one acre

Approximate frontage 102'

Approximate distance of building from street 20'

6. Recorded by C. Sharalambides & E. Kuniholm. ed. B.R. Pfeiffer

Organization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc

Date October 1977

UTM 5.
19/267810/4681810

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Elliott T. Smith
 Original use residence
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates club (post-1945)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

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

Built in 1889 for Elliott T. Smith, #839 Main Street, now Post #479 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is a good example of a type of Queen Anne style house which was popular during the 1880s and 1890s throughout Worcester. The house is a two and one-half storey frame structure with an asymmetrical floor plan and an asymmetrical facade (west). The facade has porches with elaborate wood turnings (1st and 2d stories), a high granite stoop with original iron railing, decorative shingling and a high gable set off-center. Other characteristic elements of Queen Anne design include an exterior chimney with sandstone and terracotta trim and an oriel window with stained glass (both on the south wall). The property also contains an original stable with a rounded corner tower and a ventilator/cupola. Currently well-maintained, the Smith House is one of the few houses extant from Main Street south's nineteenth-century development as one of Worcester's most prestigious residential neighborhoods.

Elliott Smith, a native of Rockland, Maine, was born in 1833 and first came to Worcester in 1849. After working as a gate tender for the Western Railroad for three years, Smith went to work for "Hitchcock & Murray Arms Manufacturers". In the winter of 1857 Smith went to New Orleans "in the lightning rod business" but returned to Worcester shortly thereafter. By 1858 Smith had established himself as a grocer; with the growth of the business, a wholesale branch (E.T. Smith & Co.) was established and in 1874 a "large brick block" was built by the firm on Washington Square. After 1893 the firm moved to Summer Street. Smith died in Worcester in 1913, after which his house was sold to Dr. Richard Shannahan, city police surgeon, and in 1945 the property was sold to a veterans' organization from which the present owner received title.

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

Nutt, C. History of Worcester and Its People, vol. III, p.281

Rice, F.P. Worcester of 1898, pp. 747-749 (illustration)