

## FORM B - BUILDING

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

NR 3/5/80

MRA IND

In Area no.

Form no.

CR

130-T

1011

1. Town WorcesterAddress 20 Irving StreetName English High SchoolPresent use school department officesPresent owner City of Worcester

3. Description:

Date 1891-1892Source City DocumentsStyle Romanesque RevivalArchitect Barker & NourseExterior wall fabric brickOutbuildings (describe) noneOther features brown sandstone trim,  
corner tower with high hip roof,  
arched entry, stone columns with  
carved capitalsAltered minor Date \_\_\_\_\_Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_5. Lot size: Assessors' Book 3, p.22  
Lot 20 39,376 sq.ft.One acre or less ☒ Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_Approximate frontage 250'Approximate distance of building from street  
15'6. Recorded by B.R. PfeifferOrganization Worc. Heritage Pres. Soc.Date February 1978

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) City of Worcester

Original use high school

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates school department offices (present)

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Built in 1891-1892, the English High School Building is a superb example of Romanesque Revival style architecture, in an excellent state of preservation. The main body of the building is three and one-half stories high, rising from a base of rock-faced granite to a dormered hip roof. Windows of the third storey and of interior stair wells have arched heads of rock-faced sandstone voussoirs. Dormers are gabled, containing windows with arched transoms and decorative brickwork in the gable. Major entries exist on the building's Irving Street (east) and Chatham Street (south) walls. The Irving Street entry consists of a sandstone and granite porch with a wide entry arch on squat columns and a sandstone railing (above) with carved corner posts. Slightly simpler in its decoration, the Chatham Street entry is set in a rectangular surround with squat columns, foliate carvings and a keystone with a carved lamp. Above this entry is a shallow projecting window sill with elaborate foliate carvings. At the school's southeast corner is a five and one-half storey tower (130' high) with a high hip roof and cast-iron cresting. The exterior of English High School is unaltered, retaining original oak-panelled doors and low granite walls at the property's boundaries.

English High School was designed by the locally prominent firm of Barker & Nourse, which published an illustration of the school building on the introductory page of Illustrations of a Few Buildings (1898), a trade catalogue for the firm.

(cont.)

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

City Document #47 for the year ending 11/30/1892

Barker & Nourse. Illustrations of a Few Buildings (1898), pages unnumbered.

Nutt, C. History of Worcester, vol. II, pp.712 (photo), 713-719 (history of Classical High), 721 (history of English High)

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Worcester

Form No:

130-I

Property Name: English High School

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

9. Opened in September of 1892, this building served as the English High School (the city's second high school) until 1914, when the English High School was re-organized as the High School of Commerce. At this time the Classical High School which had been located at the corner of Maple and Walnut Streets (in a building designed by Henry Hobson Richardson, now demolished), moved into this building. The new High School of Commerce then occupied the former Classical High School building. After 1966 this building ceased to be used as a high school; it has since been used as office space.



EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ENTRY

Staple to Inventory form at bottom