

Worcester Telegram & Gazette  
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## Then & Now: 230 Park Ave., Worcester

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The Worcester Fire Alarm and Telegraph Headquarters Building faces Elm Park on land that was donated to the city (or sold, depending on who you ask) for the park.

On the other side of Park Avenue, the 60-acre parcel on what is called Newton Hill became part of Elm Park, but pieces of it were carved out for this building and for Doherty High School around the corner. *(This paragraph has been corrected.)*

The building was used by the city for the Fire Department's telephone and telegraph system, which transmitted the information about a fire location from the incoming call to

the outlying fire station laboriously (or so it seems in this age of instant access to public safety via 911).

In the late 1970s, dispatch services were moved elsewhere, and the building fell into disrepair.

Its much admired English Tudor Revival style, as well as its prominent position, kept the need for preservation in the public concern, and many plans were brought forward for its preservation and, eventually, its restoration.

Preservation Worcester listed the building on its Most Endangered Buildings list, and eventually, a public-private partnership that was satisfactory to all parties was forged. The land was leased to Spencer Bank under the condition that the bank would restore and maintain it and allow part of the building to be used as a public space.

More Video:

Auburn senior Steve Saucier (3 for 4, 2 RBIs) talks about beating Westboro 8-7 in extra innings

Today it remains a carefully restored and renovated monument to the efforts of those who love Worcester's old buildings and recognize their worth.

- *Melissa McKeon, Correspondent*

*This story was corrected from an earlier version.*