



**Rockwood Sprinkler Co. (Sprinkler Factory)**  
38 Harlow Street | circa 1893



# 2022 Most Endangered Structures

## What Is The Most Endangered Structures List?

For the past twenty-five years, Preservation Worcester has published an annual list of the Most Endangered Structures. The List alerts the public to threats to some of our city's most historic treasures. Often the list serves as a catalyst for preservation and restoration.

## What Qualifies as an Endangered Structure?

- Must be at least 50 years old
- Have architectural, cultural or historical significance to the city
- Be threatened by neglect, demolition, alteration, or inappropriate use



**Pillars/Monuments**  
O'Connell & Haines Developments | circa 1907-1920s



**Hammond Reed Company House**  
5 May Street | circa 1895



**Belulah Perry Foulder & Alexander Foulder House**  
27 Montague Street | circa 1895



**Barn at Hope Cemetery**  
Webster Street and Hope Avenue | circa 1882



**Thomas A. Wall - Thomas Grove 3 - Decker**  
525 Vassar Street | circa 1+8+



**Thomas A. Wall - Thomas Grove 3 - Decker**  
3 Ives Street | circa 1914



**Worcester Market**  
627 main Street | circa 1914



**J. Frank Quinn House**  
900 Main Street | circa 1887



**Thomas Barrett House**  
41 Wellington Street | circa 1885



## **Worcester Market**

### **627 Main Street**

Designed by Oreste Ziroli and built in 1914, the Worcester Market Building was believed to be the largest grocery supply store in the United States at its opening. Although the business has passed out of existence, the Market Building remains a unique example of early 20th-century architecture with its facing of glazed terracotta. In addition, the building is one of the earlier prototypes upon which current supermarkets are based.

The building's primary facade faces Main Street. The parapet of this side rises slightly as if to a pediment; it contains decorated tiles panels bearing the name "Worcester Market" in addition to a medallion bearing a steer's head. The end pavilions of the facade have medallions of game birds and ram's heads as well as a variety of geometric ornament. Framing of the facade windows and entry is faced with green glazed tiles. The market was laid out with wide aisles running the length and width of the building. The interior was planned to accommodate as many as 4,500 customers at one time "without noticeable crowding"; at the peak of its success, the store handled the business of 25,000 customers "in an ordinary Saturday's trade." The first floor served as the market, while the second floor and basement were used mainly as warehouse space. Upon completion, the building contained a variety of labor-saving innovations. Storage was arranged so that goods for different departments were stored directly above or below their respective departments; connections provided by elevators; orders to be delivered to customers' homes were moved to packing rooms utilizing "carrier belts." The building also housed a bakery, a shipping department, a carpenter shop, an electrical shop, and a kitchen to prepare foods for its delicatessen.

The Worcester Market was founded in 1894 by Fayette Asaryl Amidon. Amidon, a native of Belchertown, had been engaged in various aspects of the grocery and meat-packing business from 1880 in Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. Before coming to Worcester, Amidon was one of the founders of the Providence Public Market Company.

The building's architect, Oreste Ziroli, was a native of Italy who immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1890. After high school, the younger Ziroli worked for several Fall River construction firms before moving to Worcester in 1902 as a draughtsman for J.W. Bishop Co. (builders of the Worcester Market). Except for a brief service period in World War I, Ziroli practiced architecture in Worcester independently and in conjunction with the Samuel H. Pitcher Company.

This is 627 Main Street's first appearance on the Most Endangered Structures List.



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## **Sprinkler Factory Rockwood Sprinkler Co. 3 Harlow Street**

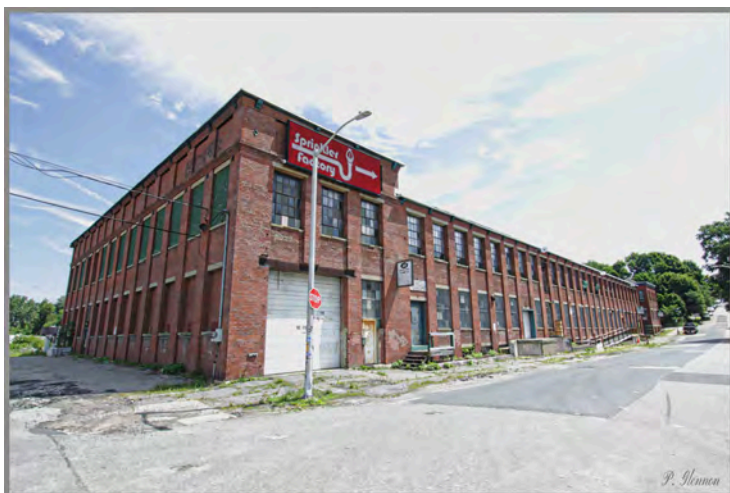
The Sprinkler Factory, located at 38 Harlow Street in the Brittan Square neighborhood of Worcester, was home to the Rockwood Sprinkler Company. Although the factory ceased production in the mid-20th century, the building today is known as the Sprinkler Factory.

The Rockwood Sprinkler Company of Worcester was founded in 1906 by George Ichabod Rockwood. Rockwood, born in Dorchester in 1868, was the grandson of Charles Washburn and a descendant of Governor Bradford, the first governor of Massachusetts. After attending public schools in Newton and Phillips Academy in Andover, Rockwood graduated from WPI with a degree in Science. Later in his life, Rockwood would teach Thermo-Dynamics and Steam Engineering at WPI. However, he is best known for his patented invention of automatic sprinklers. This new system would extinguish fires automatically whenever a fire develops.

Additionally, he also invented automatic dry pipe valves and variable pressure alarm valves. These inventions made buildings less expensive to insure and decreased fire damage. As a result, Rockwood secured many government contracts, and the business grew. It was noted in the May 20th, 1915 Iron Trade Review that a 2-story 114 x 240foot sprinkler factory was planned to be built by the Rockwood Sprinkler Company in Worcester, MA. By 1917, in addition to the home plant on Harlow Street, the company also had an additional factory in Chicago and branch locations in Montreal, Canada, New York, Boston, St. Louis, Detroit, Columbus, Louisville, and Minneapolis.

The Rockwood Sprinkler Company dominated the automatic fire-suppression system market throughout the Northeast and Canada. Upon its sale to the Gamewell Company in 1930, the Rockwood company had 325 employees and annual sales of \$1.5 million during the Depression. At its peak, the annual totals exceeded \$2.7 million, roughly \$65 million in today's dollars. Relics of Rockwood's sprinkler system can still be found in buildings all over the country today.

This is the sprinkler factory's first appearance on the Most Endangered Structures List.



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## **Belulah Perry Foulder & Alexander Foulder House** **27 Montague Street**

27 Montague was built c. 1895, for Beulah (Perry) and Alexander Foulder. Beulah Perry Foulder was a tailoress and was unmarried until the age of 41. She purchased the land for the property in 1885 from the estate of Stephen D. Tourtellot, a Worcester architect. Tourtellot owned several lots which were divided for development in the 1870s. Beulah, who had been a "spinster" when she purchased the plot, married Alexander Foulder, a Scottish immigrant and cabinetmaker, in 1887, when she was 41. Foulder, who arrived in America in 1864, and was naturalized in 1874, began his career as an organ maker upon arrival. The couple sold the property to Fred W. Prentiss, a machinist, and his wife Juliette in 1913, shortly before Beulah's death. However, Alexander remained a resident until his death in 1930; Fred Prentiss would retain ownership of the property into the 1960s.

27 Montague is considered a Prairie: Vernacular American Foursquare structure. The Prairie Style was most popular between 1900-1920, and the American Four-Square is the most common vernacular form. This structure exhibits common examples of the style, such as the hipped roof and dormer and a non-centered front door. However, the front porch entry that only spans half the length which is a less typical variation. Although the condition of the building is concerning, the traditional wood clapboard and shingling are still present. Additionally, a stained-glass window and many wood windows appear intact.

This is the property's first appearance on the Most Endangered Structures List.



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## **Hammond Reed Company House** **5 May Street**

The structure located at 5 May Street is a striking four-story high-rise apartment building. Built circa 1895, the brick and stone façade is inspired by Richardsonian Romanesque style architecture. Elaborate stonework accents the brick including a Roman-inspired arch over the doorway and an ornate etching on the keystone. The front exterior carving bears the notation of "18MAY95" referencing an important date during construction.

In 1895, the property was deeded to Arthur Stone by the Hammond Reed Company. At some point pre-1903, Theodore P. Brown took residence and conducted business from the building. The Hammond Reed Company was a manufacturer and patent holder of Simplex self-playing pianos. Interestingly, period piano retail catalogs note 5 May Street as Simplex's retail headquarters.

From 2010-2011, 5 May Street was the focus of a federal investigation when the property manager misused federal funds that were meant to rehabilitate the building. In 2013, the city of Worcester gained ownership and sold it in 2016 to Vader Realty LLC. Currently, it is co-owned by Kensington Management Trustee and Five May Street Worcester Realty Trust.

This is 5 May Street's second appearance on the Most Endangered Structures List, previously appearing in 2021.



## Pillars/Monuments

Many Worcester residential developments created in the early twentieth century include architectural features (pillars or monuments) as part of their original design. Dating from 1907 through the 1920s, these structures, often concrete or stone, marked the entrances to streets or entire developments. Features have been connected to two real-estate developers operating during this period. Thomas E. O'Connell and Edward V. Haines.

O'Connell was considered the most important of several Irish real estate developers who opened land on Worcester's westside as desirable residential neighborhoods in the early 20th century. Haines, although a successful developer, was not as influential as O'Connell. Haines was known for developing Lake Park and Lake Park Heights (Coburn Rd, Woodrow Rd, Palisades St, Dallas St., etc.), which were laid out beginning in 1914. The O'Connell Real Estate Company was responsible for developing the west side areas of Hillside 1907 (around Pleasant St. and Moore Ave.), Lenox ca. 1911 (around Chamberlain Parkway and South Lenox Street). And several other developments like Maplewood 1914 (Burncoat St. and Thorndyke St.).

O'Connell's Real Estate brochure advertising "Maplewood" describes ornate entrances and a fieldstone wall laid in cement. These entrances and walls are still visible today; they lined the subdivision's seven new streets; these pillars also had brass plaques with street names. In some instances, the mounting holes for the plaques are still present. O'Connell installed two benches to mark the entrance to Chamberlain Parkway, which are still in place today. In a similar style, Haines lined the entrances to his developments with pillars. This is the first time these pillars and monuments have been placed on the Most Endangered Structures List.

- Chamberlain Parkway Entrance and 2 Benches
- Pillars at Entrances:
  - Devens St.
  - Thorndyke Rd.
  - Monterey Rd.
  - Brighton Rd.
  - Coventry Rd.
  - Coburn/ Woodrow Rd
  - Palisades St.
  - Dallas St./Touraine St.
  - Dallas St/Woodrow Rd
- 227 Burncoat Street: The present stone wall is the original to the farming period fieldstone wall encased in cement by O'Connell. with pillars. This is the first time the these pillars and monuments have been placed on the Most Endangered Structures List.





## **Thomas Barrett House** **41 Wellington St**

Constructed in circa 1885, the Thomas Barrett House is a Queen Anne style home. Built in an unusual hybrid subtype, we see both patterned masonry and a front-facing gable. The house is brick with contrasting wood features. The windows have accents of granite stonework. The home boasts a front-facing gabled roof. Also present is an enclosed wooden balcony above the front door. A triangular pediment above the front door has intricate and beautiful carvings that suggest the previous magnificence of the home.

Wellington Street was undeveloped until Thomas Barrett, a mason, built his home. Soon after, apartments began to appear on the street. Perhaps Barrett's trade as a mason influenced the building materials and design of this house. The Thomas Barrett House appeared on the Most Endangered Structures List in 2021 in addition to this year.





## **Thomas A. Wall – Thomas Grove 3-decker 3 Ives Street**

Completed in 1914 in the Colonial Revival Style, Ives Street contains many Colonial Revival three-deckers. Three-deckers were prevalent throughout Worcester during this period as a response to the influx in population. Although properties in this neighborhood have incurred alterations, and in some cases losses, many of the triple-deckers in this neighborhood retain the combination of clapboard, shingling, and simplistic Doric columns, which is often found in this style. 3 Ives has a combination of clapboard shingles and some replacement siding. There are also losses to the front decks, and some replacement windows and doors.

The three-decker sits on what once was a large farm from the early 1800s that was owned by the Stone family. The land passed through the Stone heirs until 1911 when Lucian B. Stone's heir Georgia L. Ives drew plans for a sub-division of the remaining land. 3 Ives is lot 119 on this plan that includes the development of Ives Street, Haynes Street, and Hitchcock Road.

This is the Wall three-decker's fourth appearance on the Most Endangered Structures List, previously appearing in 2016, 2017, and 2018.



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## **J. Frank Quinn House** **900 Main Street**

Built in 1887, this house was designed by Amos P. Cutting and constructed by Urgel Jacques, costing \$8,000. Cutting was part of the firm Cutting & Oakes and operated out of the Exchange Building on Main Street. The building's first occupant was the owner of J. F. Quinn's men's furnishing store, which was located on Front Street. The Quinn family were first-generation American, originally from Ireland.

The property is located on the west side of Main Street at the end of Loudon St.; this area contains a cluster of substantial houses dating from when Main Street South was one of the city's most fashionable residential districts. Homes in this area were built predominately for upper-class business owners.

Constructed in the Shingle Style, akin to a Queen Anne with shingles, it was most popular in New England between 1880-1900. The texture of the shingle surface serves in place of applied ornamentation to give visual interest, while the elevations are asymmetrical, and the roof is prominent. Typical of the style, 900 Main exhibits plain large doors and windows. Porches are set into the façade rather than attached externally. Wood-shingled clapboards on both levels without interruption at the corners and spindle work on the second-floor porch and side gable are still intact.

This is 900 Main Street's fourth appearance on the Most Endangered Structures List, previously appearing in 2016, 2017, and 2018.





## Hovey Laundry Building 25-27 Chandler Street

The Hovey Laundry building was constructed in 1929. It was one of the first new commercial buildings in the area after Chandler Street was widened. The building is most notable for housing a general laundry and dry cleaning business started and run by Harry and George Hovey. At its peak, the business operated 24 trucks, and employed 175 workers. Truck routes covered Worcester, Spencer, Leicester, Holder, Westboro, Shrewsbury and Auburn. It was the last laundry in Worcester to feature a regular pickup and delivery service with tightly schedule routes for the drivers. The business closed in December, 1956 due to inability to handle the rising cost of doing business.

Years after the Hoveys moved out, the building was taken over by a moving company, known as O'Connell - Dickie for many years. In July 1998, the Worcester Youth Center moved into a section of the building.

The most recent buyer is Chandler Owner, an LLC set up by Los Angeles-based Benedict Canyon Equities. The company paid \$1 million for the property and two other parcels in January 2020. The owner is seeking to tear it down for future development. In December, 2021, the Worcester Historical Commission denied a demolition delay waver. The demolition delay expires after one year.

This is the Hovey Laundry Building's second appearance on the Most Endangered Structures List, previously appearing in 2018.



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## **Barn at Hope Cemetery Webster Street and Hope Avenue**

The Barn at Hope Cemetery was built in 1882, replacing an earlier structure built in 1876. The barn is a fine stick-style structure, characterized by its verticality, angularity, steeply pitched roof and cupola, and overhanging eaves which are pierced with dormers. Elements of Queen Anne style are seen in the shaped shingles on the second floor that wrap around the structure. The building suffers from neglect and deferred maintenance. Old timber frame barns are generally recognized as an endangered building type throughout New England. Preservation Mass, the statewide architectural preservation group, placed barns on their Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources List several years ago and has since formed a Barn Preservation Task Force to promote restoration and maintenance of old barns. Within this context, surviving urban barns are relatively rare. The Barn at Hope Cemetery is further enhanced in value by its location in the cemetery.

Hope Cemetery is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was founded in 1854, when the City of Worcester appointed five Commissioners to act as a governing board. In 1855 with gifts and purchases, a small tract of land east of Webster Street and north of Hope Avenue was laid out for the cemetery. At this time Webster Street was just a country lane. An office building was constructed in 1882 with a vault and machine shop, and continued in use as offices until a new building was constructed in 2000. Two former buildings of note at Hope Cemetery were the Curtis Chapel, designed by Stephen Earle and dedicated in 1891 and taken down in 1961; and the Superintendent's House, erected in 1895 and removed in 1940.

This is the Hope Cemetery Barn's third appearance on the Most Endangered Structures List, previously appearing in 2005 and 2007.



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