

WORCESTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION



CERTIFICATE OF NON-APPLICABILITY APPLICATION

(For properties located in the Crown Hill, Massachusetts Avenue or Montvale Local Historic District)

Planning & Regulatory Services Division \* 455 Main Street - Suite 404, Worcester, MA 01608 \* Phone 508-799-1400, x31440
Office Hours are 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

- 1. Building Address/Location: 21 Crown Street Date: April 23, 2024
2. Historic District: Crown Hill
3. Date or Estimation of Original Construction: 1855
4. Description of Work: (please list and explain each proposed change separately, if replacing with like materials, note accordingly)

Area of Work

Roof

Describe "Other" Area of Work

Scope of Work - Describe Work to be Completed

The north elevation entrance was previously approved by the Worcester Historical Commission to be modified. The north elevation entrance will be the handicap accessible entrance to the building with a ramp (in construction) connecting it to the sidewalk at Crown Street. During construction it has been determined that the small shed roof at the north elevation entrance will interfere with code requirements for head height. The supporting framework for the shed roof is too low and presents a safety hazard.

The existing shed roof consists of a modern (20th century) two-by-four wood frame and is covered in asphalt shingle roofing. While it looks historic due to its design, it is in fact modern lumber. This is evidenced by the fact that the framing members are not true two-by-fours and are only three-and a-half inches in width. In order to correct the head height issue, the shed roof will be removed. Mounting holes in the masonry will be patched with matching materials. As the shed roof is not a historic feature, its loss will not affect the historic character of the building. Additionally it is not a prominent visible feature on the building and its loss will not be noticeable, when viewing the building from Crown Street.

Describe the Condition of Existing Materials to be Removed

Deteriorated modern lumber and asphalt shingles

Describe Proposed Materials

None proposed, the north elevation shed roof will simply be removed.

- 5. Owner of Property: DBA name: (If Provided): Owner Name: ABBY KELLEY FOSTER HOUSE INC ABBY KELLEY FOSTER HOUSE INC
Owner Address: 52 High Street Worcester 01609

- 6. Contractor Information: Company Name: Contractor Contact Name:
Contractor Address: Contractor Phone:

- 7. Type of Building Construction Brick masonry house
(Wood, Concrete, Steel, etc.)

- 8. List all the Uses of the Building Residence
(Residence, Business, Industrial, etc.)

- 9. Basis for Exemption from Commission Approval (check all that apply):
Ordinary maintenance or repair of exterior architectural features that does not affect a change in design, color, material or outward appearance.
Interior work that does not affect the exterior of the building.
Landscaping with trees and plants, provided that any tree removed does not have a trunk of 12 inches or greater in diameter measured 4 1/2 feet above the ground.
Area of work is not visible from a public way.

Owner's Signature certifying that the above information is true and accurate to the best of his/her knowledge:

Handwritten signature of Abby Kelley Foster

Date: 4-24-2024

### ***Existing Condition Architectural Description***

21–23 Crown Street is located on a 0.2-acre parcel of land on the east side of Crown Street south of Chatham Street in the Oxford-Crown Historic District of Worcester. The site includes a house, which occupies most of the front of the parcel and a paved parking area, which covers the rear of the parcel between the house and the garage. The grade at the site slopes down to the east, exposing the basement level at the rear of the house. The site is partially enclosed by low chain link fencing and includes various configurations of concrete and concrete block retaining walls, concrete pathways, and planting beds with a granite curb along the Crown Street sidewalk.

The house is a two-story, vertically divided brick duplex built circa 1855 in the Greek Revival style with a hipped roof and square footprint. The façade (west elevation) is six bays wide, with each unit consisting of three bays. The double-door entrances for the units are paired in the center. A covered, one-story porch with fluted Doric columns spans the entryways. A tall brick frieze wraps around the house. Windows throughout are mainly 6/1 double-hung replacement sash with brownstone lintels and sills. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The building remains split in its original duplex form, with the exception of a doorway in the basement connecting the two sides.

The remaining elevations have symmetrical arrangements of bays, which include an entrance on either side and an entrance for each unit on the basement level on the rear (east elevation), which also includes an additional small six-light window on the first floor and an in-filled opening at the basement. The north and south elevations also include smaller windows at the basement. The north elevation entrance is accessed by concrete-block stairs and sheltered by a modern two-four framed small shed roof. The south elevation first-floor entrance was in-filled with brick and relocated to an adjoining bay, which is accessed by concrete-block stairs an enclosed wood frame addition mounted on posts; a steel door has been added at the basement level. The roof of the building is a hip roof covered in asphalt shingles.

### ***Proposed Scope of Work***

#### **North Elevation Entrance**

The north elevation entrance was previously approved by the Worcester Historical Commission to be modified. The north elevation entrance will be the handicap accessible entrance to the building with a ramp (in construction) connecting it to the sidewalk at Crown Street. During construction it has been determined that the small shed roof will interfere with code requirements for head height. The supporting framework for the shed roof is too low and presents a safety hazard.

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## 21 Crown Street



1. 21 Crown Street façade and north elevation



2. 21 Crown Street façade and north elevation

## 21 Crown Street



1. 21 Crown Street north elevation entrance



2. 21 Crown Street north elevation entrance

## 21 Crown Street



3. 21 Crown Street north elevation entrance



4. 21 Crown Street north elevation entrance framing

## 21 Crown Street



5. 21 Crown Street north elevation entrance, note use of modern lumber