

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: **Massachusetts**
COUNTY: **Suffolk**
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: **MAY 22 1973** DATE: **MAY 22 1973**

1. NAME

COMMON:

Armory of the First Corps of Cadets

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION **9th Congressional District**

STREET AND NUMBER:

97-105 Arlington Street and 130 Columbus Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Suffolk

CODE

025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building	☐ Public	☒ Occupied	Yes: ☒ Restricted
☐ Site ☐ Structure	☒ Private	☐ Unoccupied	☐ Unrestricted
☐ Object	☐ Both	☐ Preservation work in progress	☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☒ Other (Specify)	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious	Library, University	
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific	of Massachusetts, Boston Campus	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

William J. Fitzgerald

STREET AND NUMBER:

97-105 Arlington Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Suffolk County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Armory of First Corps of Cadets: Report and Proposals

DATE OF SURVEY: **1966**

☐ Federal

☐ State

☐ County

☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Boston Redevelopment Authority

STREET AND NUMBER:

City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

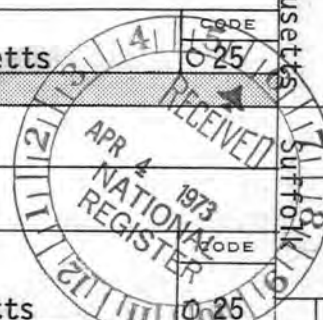
STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **Massachusetts**
COUNTY: **Suffolk**
ENTRY NUMBER: **839**
DATE: **MAY 22 1973**
FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Armory of the First Corps of Cadets is a rusticated granite-faced building, constructed between 1891 and 1897. It is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Arlington Street and Columbus Avenue, and consists of the four story Head House, a six story hexagonal tower, and a single-story drill hall. The foundation is of granite, and the external walls are twenty inches thick.

The Head House is four stories, shaped in the plan as a right triangle with a six story tower articulating the corner of Arlington Street and Columbus Avenue. Describing the Arlington Street facade is a nearly symmetrical disposition of corner masses; three broad smooth granite arches span two floors of rectangular windows; and an irregular arrangement of narrow slit-like openings and entry are placed parallel to the street.

The narrow Columbus Avenue side of the building is characterized by massings of towers and turrets of varying scale and a flat two-bay arched central portion. Indicating the uppermost story of the Head House and tower is a corbelled arcade surrounded by a crenelated roofline. Carved detailing includes the winged dragon on the tower and the pairs of heads which terminate the mouldings of the window arches.

The Drill Hall is a single-story, nine bay structure with a slate pitched roof and pyramid-shaped dormer windows. The Hall is flanked by two short turrets pierced by loopholed openings from which the walls of the drill shed could be "swept by musketry". The arched windows openings are framed with rough-faced granite blocks. A drawbridge leads to the central bay which is marked by a doorway. Another exit leads to the rear passage between the Armory and the Carter Building, (located directly to the right of the Armory on Columbus Avenue) was originally protected by heavy iron gates. A "moat" suggested by the space remaining between the sidewalk and the building allows for the penetration of light into the basement rooms. The windows of the Drill Hall, the basement, and two lower stories of the Head House are furnished with retractable musket-proof steel shutters. The rear of the Drill Hall facing the alleyway which runs parallel to Columbus Avenue is provided with corbel towers for "flank defense".

The Drill Hall is now used as the main reading room of the University of Massachusetts library. The large room on the second floor which was once the Museum of the First Corps of Cadets is the periodical room. The brick and marble mantel with acanthus carving still remains, as do the heavy wooden doors opening onto the gallery of the Drill Hall.

The third floor which was formerly occupied by the Massachusetts Military Historical Society is primarily a storage area. An impressive fireplace and mantel can be found in the larger room.

The main room of the fourth floor which had been occupied by the Civil War museum of the Loyal Legion is now used as a meeting room and lounge. The ornately carved woodwork, beamed ceiling, and gallery surrounding three sides of the room all remain intact. There are also book cases filled with books on military history, displays of flags and medals, and plaques commemorating Civil War battles and honoring Civil War heroes.

The fifth and sixth floors are not accessible at this time.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1891-1897

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ Transportation | |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Military | | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The granite-faced castellated building situated at the intersection of Arlington Street and Columbus Avenue is the last surviving Victorian armory in the city. It is a major work of William Gibbons Preston (1842-1910), a Boston architect well known for his Back Bay and suburban residences and designs for the Museum of Natural History on Berkeley Street (now occupied by Bonwit Teller), the Hotel Vendôme (the oldest portion at Dartmouth Street and Commonwealth Avenue) and the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanics Association Hall (formerly on Boylston Street).

The Armory was planned, constructed, and financed by the First Corps of Cadets, a military organization established in 1741 as the bodyguard to the Governor of the Province of Massachusetts Bay. Reorganized in 1776 as the Boston Independent Company, the Corps, commanded by John Hancock and Henry Jackson, took part in the battle of West Point and participated in the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. During the Civil War they performed guard duty over 700 prisoners at Fort Warren in Boston Harbor, and during the First World War they served with distinction on operations at Chemin des Dames, Chateau Thierry, St. Michiel, and Verdun. By 1939 the organization was being fully trained and equipped to take the field as a complete motorized anti-aircraft regiment. On September 16, 1940, they became one of the first National Guard units to be inducted, and in 1962, they were redesignated the First Battalion, 220th Infantry.

Because of lack of space for training its members, by 1880 the Corps stated that it would raise the necessary funds for the erection of an armory from public donations and would seek no financial assistance from the city. A lot of land, located on Columbus Avenue was purchased with revenues collected during the early fund-raising campaigns. The location was considered to be "strategically advantageous because of its central situation in relation to population, to public buildings and to the termini of the railroads of the city." It also provided an unobstructed view across the trees of the Common and afforded easy communication by signal flag with the State House.

Temporary quarters were established for the Cadets in 1882. By 1887 the Cadets had commissioned Preston to design the Armory building. The cornerstone was laid on October 19, 1891, the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Corps, an event which was accompanied by a ceremonious parade and prayers by the Reverend Phillips Brooks, Rector of Trinity Church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architect and Building News, (v. 21, no. 597, June 1887
(v. 37, no. 869, p. 122) August 1892
(v. 57, no. 1127, p. 44) July 31, 1897
Archives of the Veterans Association of the First Corps of Cadets
Cadet Armory (Boston: 1880) and (Boston: 1887) (in above Archives)
Collected Architectural Drawings of William Gibbons Preston - Vol. 52:
Armory of the First Corps of Cadets (Boston Public Library)

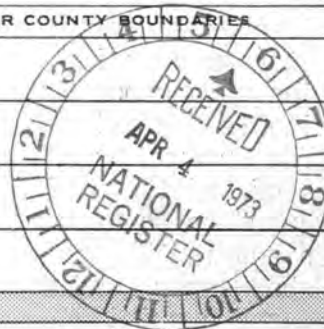
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0	42	20 57.742	71 04 15.195
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0			
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0			
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: about one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Carla Wyman (SPNEA) for Elizabeth Amadon, State Survey Director

ORGANIZATION
Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE
March 20, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE
Massachusetts

CODE
025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☒

John F. X. Davoren
Name Honorable JOHN F. X. DAVOREN

Secretary of the Commonwealth and
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Title Commission

Date March 26, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Italy
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/22/73

ATTEST:
H. B. Bealford
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/18/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE MA Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE MAY 2 1973

(Number all entries) 8. SIGNIFICANCE - Armory of the First Corps of Cadets

The Cadets owned the building until 1965 at which time the unit decided to convey the Armory to a real estate investor. In 1965, the building was Headquarters for two units of the Massachusetts National Guard and a museum for Civil War memorabilia.

As of February 1967, the Armory was still occupied by the Museum, the offices of the First Corps of Cadets and the library of the Massachusetts Military Historical Society. Since then, however, the building has been leased to the University of Massachusetts and is used for a Library, student lounges and faculty rooms.

The Armory is a most significant monument of Victorian architecture. It represents an unusual architectural form, and it is one of the few surviving examples of the great fortress-like armories of the late 19th century which had occupied such commanding positions in 19th century American cities. The Armory is the only one of its kind remaining in Boston and is one of the most interesting among those left in the New England-New York area. Its situation at a prominent intersection gives it bold command over its environment, and its relationship to other buildings in the area helps create for this particular part of Boston an architectural integrity which would be difficult to match.

The romantic Victorian forms of the Cadet Armory provide architectural diversity within an area characterized by later and more conservative office and hotel buildings. As stated in the General Plan of the City of Boston (BRA: 1965) it is the "graceful variety of Boston's historical landmarks that distinguishes the City's existing physical design and indicates a building tradition that cannot and should not be easily changed."



PROPERTY

Armory of the First
Corps of Cadets

STATE

Mass.

WORKING NUMBER

4.4.73.2709

TECH REVIEW

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL REVIEW

from map + photo forms

Otherwise

HISTORIAN

Accept - AML
5/4/73Accept 5-8-73
C. Shull

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
KH
5/7/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Herrington
Roberts
5-17-73

KEEPER

OK H. H. 10/1
W. H. 10/1
5/18/73

National Register write-up

Send-back

Federal Register entry

7-3-73

Re-submit

Entered

MAY 22 1973



V

NPS Number

5-23-73

Title:

Armory of the First
Corps of Cadets

Loc.

Suffolk Co., Mass.

(2)

Looking south on
Columbus Ave.

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



II
NPS Number

5.23-73

Title:

Remains of the First
Corps of Cadets

Loc.

Suffolk Co., Mass. ①
At corner of Burlington
and Columbia Streets
South

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

15

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
MASSACHUSETTS	
COUNTY	
SUFFOLK	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2-2 1973	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: ARMORY OF THE FIRST CORPS OF CADETS
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

97-103 ARLINGTON STREET AND 130 COLUMBUS AVENUE

CITY OR TOWN:

BOSTON,

STATE:

MASSACHUSETTS

CODE

025

COUNTY:

SUFFOLK

CODE

025

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

USGS 7.5' SERIES, BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE

SCALE:

1:24,000

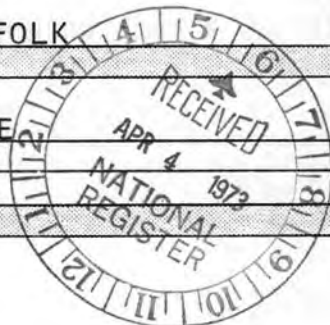
DATE:

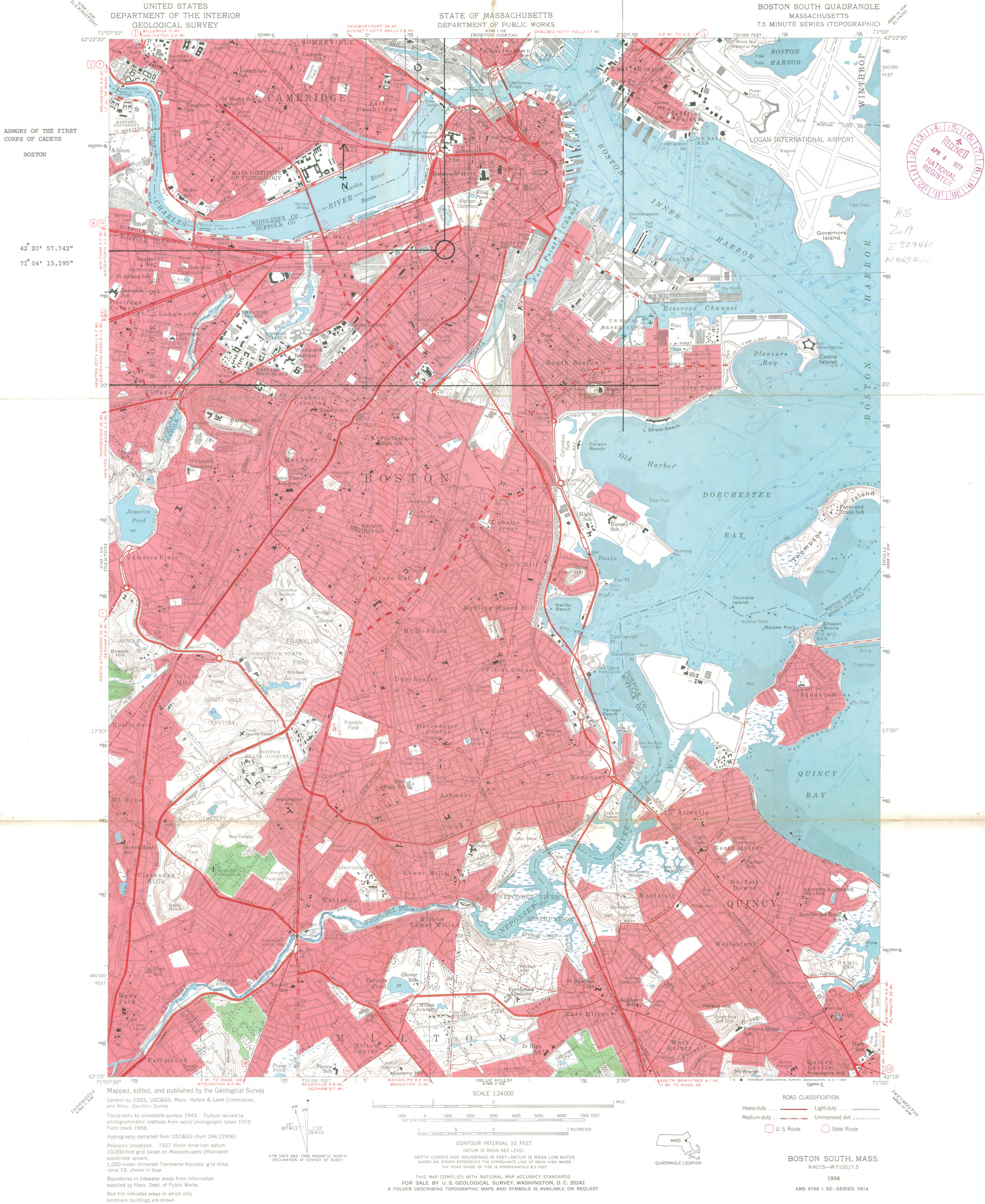
1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.







The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

~~3--Jury Street~~
40 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass. 02108

March 29, 1973

National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attention: Mr. Jerry Rogers

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for:

Suffolk County, Boston, Armory of the First Corps of Cadets

This has been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and has been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth John F.X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated State Liaison Officer.

Cordially,

Bob

Robert B. Rettig
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RBR:lrh
Encl.



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **MAY 22 1973**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Armory of the First Corps of Cadets	Boston Suffolk County

Also Notified

**Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. John Moakley**

Director, Northeast Region

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

TELEPHONE REPORT
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

TO/FROM: Barbara Martino (on behalf of Jeffrey Saunders)

ORGANIZATION: Saunders Hotels Co., Inc.
64 Arlington St.

DATE: 8/7/90 Boston, MA 02116

PHONE #: (617) 536-9000 #40

RE: Armory of the First Corps of Cadets
97-105 Arlington St., #130 Columbus
Boston, MA

Suffolk Co.

The new owner of the property is
listed above under "organization".

Mr. Saunders wants the record to reflect
his company's new ownership of this
NR. listed property.

I explained that we don't update
ownership info. regularly per se
and the reasons why. I said I would
write up a telephone report to record
conversation for the record.

Barbara L. Sarge
Architectural Historian
Reviewer for MA