

ADDRESS 263-265 Tremont COR. Seaver Place (alleNAME Sam S. Shubert Theatre/ same
present originalMAP No. 24N/12E SUB AREA Theatre
building permit 4/28/1908
DATE 1908-1910* opening 1/24/1910*present facade dates from 1925
(source: photos and Atlas) 3,5ARCHITECT Hill, James and Whitaker (permit)
sourceBUILDER W. H. Keyes & Co (permit)
source Shubert Organiza-
Begun by Chas H. Bond tion Inc.OWNER Completed by Shubert / c/o H.E. Markowitz
Holding Co. present 244 W. 44th St.PHOTOGRAPHS 1 2/6, 2/5.79 N.Y., N.Y. 10036Ward 5, Parcel # 63 UTM#19/329820/4690500TYPE (residential) single double row 2-fam. 3-deck ten apt.
(non-residential) theatre and officesNO. OF STORIES (1st to cornice) 2 (equivalent to plus
3 in height)ROOF flat cupola dormersMATERIALS (Frame) clapboards shingles stucco asphalt asbestos alum/vinyl
(Other) brick (stone) limestone concrete iron/steel/alum.BRIEF DESCRIPTION Symmetrical, classically-inspired 1925 theatre
entrance featuring original 1910 wrought iron and glass marquee.
Second story dominated by central Palladian-motif window with finely
carved tympanum. Elevation terminated by modillion cornice and parapet
with blind balustrade over center bay.EXTERIOR ALTERATION minor moderate drastic 1910 facade replaced by 1925
facade, which has minor alteratiCONDITION good fair poor LOT AREA 17,403 sq. feetNOTEWORTHY SITE CHARACTERISTICS Rear facade on Warrenton St, parking lot
to south.SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd on reverse) The Shubert
is significant as a well-preserved example
of the early 20th century Adamesque theatre
interior and as the scene of many notable
theatrical performances. Its marquee is
important as the last of its kind in Boston.The eclectic interior, inspired by the
palace at Versailles and the Louis XIV, XV
and XVI periods, accommodates 1500 and has
been praised for its comfortable seats,
coziness and "mellow richness." Lobby
paintings after Boucher are by Henry Bodge

(Map)

(NRI) June, 1979

NOV 7 1980

DEC 9 1980

Moved; date if known _____

Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Pennell, architect also involved with interiors at the Wilbur, Colonial and Majestic. Pennell's firm, Pennell, Gibbs & Quiring, did interior decoration.²

The principal architect, Thomas M. James (1875-1942) practiced with Clinton M. Hill before organizing, in 1909, his own architecture and engineering firm specializing in banks. He also designed the Union-Warren Savings and present Post Office in the theatre area. In 1925 Tremont St. was widened by 20 ft. along the west side of the Shubert block, an action requiring demolition or alteration of all buildings on the Shubert side. The marble-faced James facade was replaced by the present limestone entrance, with original marquee from 1910 re-erected.

The Shubert was built for drama and opened with Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew" starring E.H. Sothorn and Julia Marlow. Theatrical highpoints have included the first Boston performances by John Gielgud, Maurice Evans and Sir Lawrence Olivier and the 1917 performance by John Barrymore, one of the greatest 29th century Am. actors.

The Theatre was named for Sam S. Shubert, called "the founder of the independent theatre movement," oldest of three Shubert brothers and the first to become involved in theatre management in the 1880's. After Sam's death in a train wreck in 1905, his brothers Lee and Jacob went on to dominate legitimate theatre in the 1st half of the 20th century, controlling at one time the Plymouth Copley, Majestic, Colonial, Wilbur and Boston Opera House as well as the Shubert.

The theatre was begun by Chas. H. Bond but taken over during construction by Preservation Consideration (accessibility, re-use possibilities, capacity for public use and enjoyment, protection, utilities, context) the Shuberts after Bond's untimely death.

Preservation Recommendations: National Register (individual listing)

Current Status: Still operated by the Shubert organization as a legitimate theatre.

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

1. Boston Herald, Jan 23, 1910, p. 17 (desc. of theatre)
2. Boston Globe, Jan. 23, 1910, p. 41 "
3. Broadway Down East by Elliot Norton, Boston 1978. (see photo of original facade, p. 23)
4. Obituaries of Lee Shubert (12/25/1953) and Jacob Shubert (12/25/63) in New York Times
5. See Atlases of 1922 and 1928 for proof of street widening; also "Take Down" permits at City Hall Building Department

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets, Section 9

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property see individual and area forms

Quadrangle name Boston South

Quadrangle scale 1"=25,000'

UMT References

A 19 329940 4690650
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The southern boundary of the Theatre Area starts at a point on Washington St., 520' south of the intersection of Kneeland & Washington. From this point it runs due west along an arbitrary straight line to a point on Charles St. South 442' south of Stuart Street. From thence it follows Charles St. South one block north to the intersection of Stuart St.,

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

by Pamela Fox
Boston Landmarks Commission

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston,

state MA 02108

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☒ national

☒ state

☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia W. Weselowski

10/20/80

title

date

For HCERS use only

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

James W. Ray
Keeper of the National Register

date

Attest:

Patricia W. Weselowski
Chief of Registration

date

Property

Boston Theatre Multiple Resource Area

State

MA, Suffolk

Working Number

11, 7, 80, 2781

DUE

1/7/81

TECHNICAL

Photos 4Maps 1/3

CONTROL

This multiple resource area is significant for the quality of its architecture and for its association with the development of the important Boston music industry and growth of the theater/movie house industry. The district's and individual buildings achieved significance between c. 1890 and the 1930's - contained in this M.R.A. are significant groups of late 19th/early 20th cent. commercial buildings, the center

HISTORIAN

accept
Patrick Andrews12/4/80

the music industry (especially piano manufacturing) and ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN examples of every kind of theater that developed in Boston in this period. This is a good multiple resource nomination - they have included all the required categories of information.

accept all

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered DEC 9 1980Federal Register Entry 2.2.82

Re-submit _____



SHUBERT
THEATRE

7:00 PM
8:00 PM
TUES. - JUNE 2

Shukert, Sam S., Building

Boston Theater MRA

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000272