



25-39  
ADDRESS Boylston St. COR. Bumstead Court  
NAME Electric / Boston Edison Illuminating C  
present original

MAP No. 24N/12E SUB AREA Theatre  
#33-39 1906 permit 4/3/1906  
DATE #23-27 1922 permit 8/6/1922

ARCHITECT 1906-Winslow & Bigelow (permit) source  
1922-Bigelow & Wadsworth (permit)

BUILDER 1906-Whidden & Co (permit) source  
1922-Geo.B.H. Macomber (permit)

OWNER Edison source  
Electric Illuminating  
Company /  
original present

PHOTOGRAPHS 2 4/4, 9 4/6 '79

W+M 19/330000/41A0740 Ward 3 Parcel #4878

TYPE (residential) single double row 2-fam. 3-deck ten apt.  
(non-residential) Boston Edison headquarters

NO. OF STORIES (1st to cornice) 10 plus \_\_\_\_\_

ROOF flat cupola dormers

MATERIALS (Frame) clapboards shingles stucco asphalt asbestos alum/vinyl  
(Other) brick (stone) limestone concrete iron/steel/alum.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION 7-bay early skyscraper with Beaux Arts detailing. Bldg is asymmetrical, designed with center and one flanking side section. First floor heavily altered, second floor features banded rustication, stone balcony between 2nd & 3rd stories supported on heavy console brackets, cartouche over entrance with mosaic "Edison" inscription, copper torches set in niches at 3rd story, stone bracketed cornice.

EXTERIOR ALTERATION minor (moderate) drastic heavily altered storefront

CONDITION (good) fair poor LOT AREA 6700 sq. feet

NOTEWORTHY SITE CHARACTERISTICS \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd on reverse) Notable

Beaux Arts skyscraper by well-known Boston architectural firm, solidly constructed and well-preserved.

The building contributes to the street-

(Map)

Moved; date if known \_\_\_\_\_

Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

cape Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

but is flawed as a composition because it was built in two stages rather than conceived as a single unit. Because of the rigid rules of symmetry which characterize Beaux Art classicism, the resulting structure appears lopsided, as if a west section were missing.

The main part of the building, #33-39, was constructed in 1906-7 by Winslow and Bigelow, the partnership which handled all Edison Illuminating Company construction as well as the design of many large Boston commercial buildings including the Walker Building addition, Oliver Ditson Building (150 Tremont), Board of Trade Building and South Terminal. The addition at #23-27 was done in 1922 by the successor firm of Bigelow & Wadsworth and involved a careful match of style and building materials.

The building continued in use as Boston Edison offices through the 1950's, when it was sold and converted to stores and offices.

Preservation Consideration (accessibility, re-use possibilities, capacity for public use and enjoyment, protection, utilities, context)

Good candidate for adaptive re-use

At edge of "Piano Row" district, could be included in future expanded boundaries of that district.

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

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets, Section 9

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage 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

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director by Pamela Fox  
Boston Landmarks Commission

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. Weslowski date 10/20/80

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John W. Ray Luce date 12/9/80  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patricia Andrus date 12/4/80  
 Chief of Registration

Property Boston Theatre Multiple Resource Area

DUE  
1/7/81

State MA, Suffolk Working Number 11, 7, 80, 2781

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 11  
Maps 1-3

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 Andrews  
12/4/80

of 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.

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered DEC 9 1980  
Federal Register Entry 2.2.82 Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



Boston Edison Electric  
Illuminating Company

Boston Theater MRA

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000272