



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 80000462

Date Listed: 12/9/1980

Property Name: Beach-Knapp Historic District

Multiple Name: Boston Theater MRA

County: Suffolk

State: Massachusetts

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

12/5/2017
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued at the request of the Massachusetts state historic preservation office to make a technical change to the nomination to clarify the boundary of the historic district. The National Register of Historic Places Registration form is amended to clarify that the boundary of the Beach-Knapp Historic District extends beyond the front facades of the buildings out to the curbs of the streets.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Form numbers in this area	Area no.
TH-47 to TH-52	E

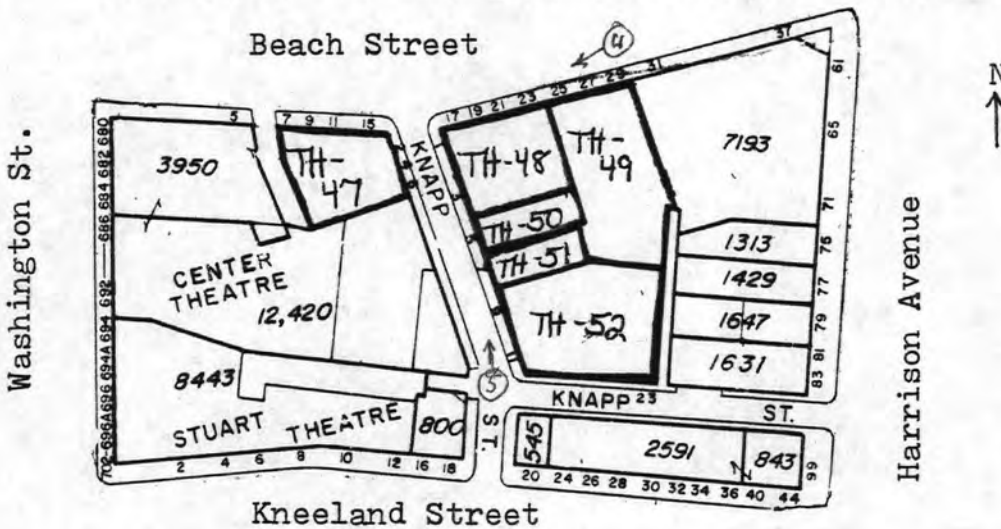
2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

1. Town Boston (CBD-Theatre Area)
Name of area (if any) Beach/Knapp District

3. General date or period late 19th and early 20th century

4. Is area uniform (explain):
in style? no (predominantly Victorian Commercial Style)
in condition? no (good to fair condition)
in type of ownership? yes (private)
in use? no (commercial/light manufacturing)

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Pamela Fox
Organization Boston Landmarks Commission
Date June, 1979

(over)

NOV 7 1980

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

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

Boston City Directories

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1980

DATE ENTERED DEC 9 1980

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

Beach/Knapp Area Form

The Beach/Knapp District is composed of six buildings located on two side streets between the "Adult Entertainment Zone" of lower Washington Street and the Harrison Avenue edge of Chinatown and the Garment District. The buildings reflect the historical development of the area from residential to mixed commercial and light industrial/warehouse uses and are architecturally significant as fine examples of particular building types.

During the 1830's and 40's, the Beach/Knapp area was predominantly residential, and the modest Greek Revival rowhouses at 5 & 7 Knapp (TH-50 and TH-51) survive from this earlier period. Because of the nearby Boston to Albany and Old Colony Railroad terminals, the Washington Street area was also a popular location for hotels. One such hotel, the "Shakespearian Inn" remains at 7-15 Beach Street (TH-47). The other three buildings, 17-23 and 25-29 Beach and 9-23 Knapp (TH-48, TH-49, TH-52) are representative of the light manufacturing activity which gradually moved into the area after the Great Fire of 1872, which resulted in displacement from the city center of more marginal wholesale and light industrial uses, particularly those related to Boston's clothing industry. Little is known about the specific uses of these three buildings except that two were originally owned by Andrew G. Weeks, a partner in a large and prosperous wholesale drug company, and the third was owned by Week's son, Warren P. Weeks, a real estate broker.

The three "loft" buildings are architecturally significant as fine examples of the Victorian Commercial Style. Those at 17-23 Beach (TH-48) and 9-23 Knapp (TH-52) were designed by the nationally known firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge. 9-23 Knapp is particularly indebted to the Richardsonian tradition in its simple massing and multi-story arcades. The remodelled Shakespearian Inn (TH-47) has several architectural features which are unique in the Central Business District, including three 4-story metal oriel windows, elaborate cast iron capitals, and a cast iron plaque of William Shakespeare.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE

Area E: Beach/Knapp District
Acreage: 2/5ths of an acre
UTM Reference #: 19/330140/4690600

Boundary Justification: The boundary line was drawn around four buildings considered of high architectural quality with 19th century characteristics (7-15, 17-23 and 25-29 Beach Street and 9-23 Knapp Street). In the process 5 and 7 Knapp Street were also included, reflecting the area's earlier nineteenth century residential character.

List of Buildings: (all considered contributing):

- TH-47 7-15 Beach Street - (Shakespearian Inn) (c. 1885, remodelled 1897 by F. H. Hartwell) 5-story tan brick Renaissance Revival building with unusual 4-story oriels. Remodelled into "Shakespearian Inn" in 1897.
- TH-48 17-23 Beach Street - (1906, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge) 8-story brick Commercial Style "loft" building.
- TH-49 25-29 Beach Street - (1885, Wait and Cutter) 6-story brick Commercial Style "loft" building constructed for light manufacturing use.
- TH-50 5 Knapp Street - (c. 1835-39) 3½-story vernacular brick Greek Revival dwelling raised to 4 stories and given commercial storefront.
- TH-51 7 Knapp Street - (c. 1835) 3-story vernacular brick Greek Revival dwelling.
- TH-52 9-23 Knapp Street - (1889, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge) 6-story Romanesque Revival/Commercial Style brick "loft" building.

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. Weslowki date 10/20/80

title _____ date _____

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

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

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 12/4/80
 Chief of Registration



KING WAH
馥華樓
RESTAURANT

市場平價

LINE

Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

DEC 9 1980

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commis-
sion, Boston, MA

NOV 7 1980

Photo #4 of 15, Beach/Knapp District,
7-15, 17-23, & 25-29 Beach St.

Beach/Knapp District, 7-15, 17-23 & 25-29 Beach St, Boston MA



Budweiser
Gateway Cafe



HAMBURG

J.F. & J.
CORP.

Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979

Negative at Boston Landmarks Commis-
sion, Boston, MA

Photo #5 of 15, Beach/Knapp District,
5, 7 and 9-23 Knapp St.

DEC 9 1980
NOV 7 1980

Beach/Knapp District, 5, 7 + 9-23 Knapp St, Boston MA.



KING
WAH



RESTAURANT

CHINESE RESTAURANT

市平
場價

ONE

Besch-Krupp District

Boston Theatrical MRA

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000272

Property Boston Theatre Multiple Resource Area

DUE
1/7/81

State MA, Suffolk Working Number H. 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
2/4/80

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 _____
Federal Register Entry 2.2.82

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered DEC 9 1980



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 9, 2005

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Technical clarification, Boston Theatre MRA

Dear Ms. Shull:

This request is regarding a technical clarification for the boundaries of the four districts within the Boston Theatre Multiple Resource Area (12/9/1980), Boston (Suffolk), MA: the **Beach-Knapp Historic District**, the Liberty Tree Historic District; the Piano Row Historic District; and the West Street Historic District. In keeping with current National Park Service practices, please note that the boundaries of the National Register districts should extend beyond the front facades of the buildings out to the curbs of the streets. Thank you for making this technical adjustment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Cc: Roysin Billett, Boston Landmarks Commission