

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO. 4/17-1
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

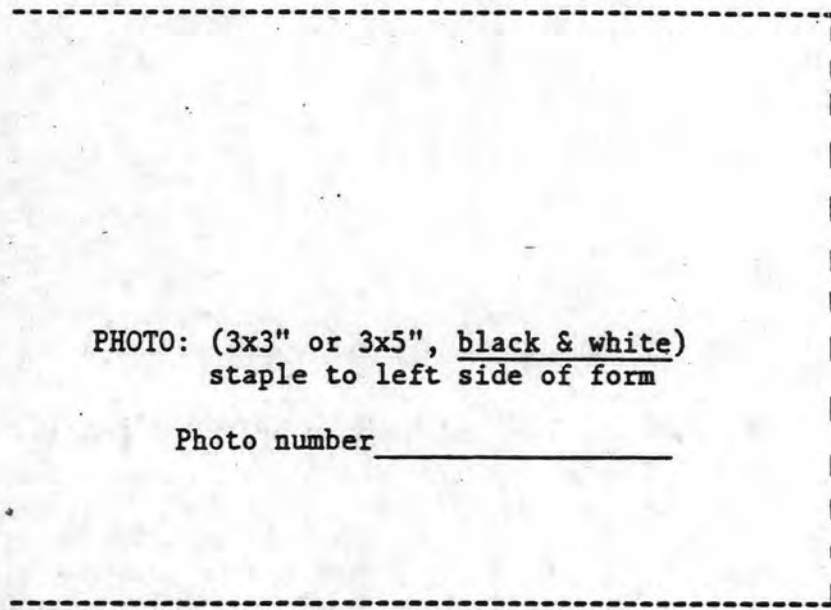


PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

- ***1946-restore to original condition after Army occupation
 - 1948-replace west end floding garage doors with electric overhead doors
 - 1960-install 1st floor interior ramp; install wood exterior door with transom
 - 1965-remove steel sash windows & replace with Anderson casements
- Boston South Quadrangle
 UTM References: 19/326600/4690600
 Map #11

Recorded by Greer Hardwicke
 Organization BHC
 Date 5/85

Town BROOKLINE MRA
 Address 808 Commonwealth Ave.
 Historic Name Peter Fuller Building

Use: Present owned by Boston University
 Original Cadillac showroom, sales & repair

DESCRIPTION:

Date Oct. 25, 1927

Source Building Permit #147

Style 20th C. "Classical"

Architect Albert Kahn (Detroit)

Exterior wall fabric Indiana buff limestone, granite & artificial stone

Outbuildings no

Major alterations (with dates) ***

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting on the corner of a wide inter-section overlooking the B.U. bridge & the Mass. Turnpike & Comm. Ave and abutting the residential area of Cottage Farm.

Boston South Quadrangle
 UTM Reference: 19/326600/4690600
 Map #: 11

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

808 Commonwealth Avenue is a 5 story Indiana limestone structure with large showroom windows on the 1st and 2nd floors across the front and on 2 bays on the northeast facade. Monumental fluted pilasters begin at the 2nd floor and divide the upper windows. The series of 3 windows in between the pilasters are divided into 25 panes. There are stylized rosettes in the cornice capping the pilasters. A band of granite, about 3 feet high, begins at ground level and wraps around the building. The entrance is between 2 fluted pilasters and topped by a large entablature. A decorated screen grill and anthemion band sit above the door. The anthemion band is echoed in the large plate glass windows on the 1st floor. An oval carved medallion sits above the entablature. 808 Commonwealth Ave. is

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

808 Commonwealth Avenue, longtime home of the Peter Fuller Cadillac Dealership, was built by the Cadillac Auto Company in 1927 to serve the growing demand for the automobile. The Cadillac building stood at the gateway of "Automobile Row" of Commonwealth Avenue which was the Boston metropolitan area's center for car sales and service during the 1920's through the 1960's.

808 Commonwealth Avenue was designed in 1927 by Albert Kahn, one of the most influential and prolific industrial designers of the early-mid 20th century. Before his death in 1942, Kahn's firm was responsible for about 19% of all industrial buildings in the U.S. He was born in Germany in 1869 and moved to Detroit with his parents in 1880. After apprenticing with Mason & Rice (Detroit), he established a practice with Nettleton & Trowbridge. In 1902, Kahn formed his own firm in Detroit. He was later joined by his brothers, Julius and Moritz.

He is perhaps best known for his association with Henry Ford. His designs for Ford include the Highland Park Plant (1909-1918), the Ford River Rouge Plant (Dearborn, 1917-39).

His earliest works, including the Packard Motor Co. Plant (1903-1910) are of conventional design. His later works incorporated more innovative planning techniques, such as combining a modular system with lighting from above as used in the George N. Pierce Plant in Buffalo, NY (1906). The characteristics of his buildings came to be an exposed steel structure, a linear plan, a sawtooth profile, element standardization and fast, low-cost construction.

Along with the Ford plants, Kahn designed the Chrysler Half-Ton Truck Plant in Warren, the Fisher Body Co. Plant (Cleveland, 1922), and the GM Building (Detroit). He was also the company architect for the Packard Motor Car Co. In the 1930's, Kahn went to

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

Brookline building permits

McMillian Dictionary of Architects

Grant Hildebrand, Designing for Industry, (Cambridge (MA), 1974

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: BROOKLINE <i>Feller, Peter, Building</i>	Form No: 4/17-1
Property Name: Cadillac Building	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.
the largest automobile showroom in the area and retains most of its architectural integrity.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (p.2)

Russia and designed over 500 factories.

Kahn's work was not limited to industrial design. He designed residences, commercial buildings and a number of educational buildings for the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

808 Commonwealth was constructed of reinforced concrete displaying more elaboration than used in the factory buildings to be the showplace for the Cadillac luxury car. This building and the transportation revolution it represents mark an important chapter in the development of the Metropolitan area.

808 Commonwealth Ave. meets NR criteria A & B as being one of the few structures designed by Albert Kahn, one of the leading industrial architects of the 20th century, in the Boston area and being a building connected with the newly developed transportation revolution of the automobile.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9-4-85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Brookline MRA
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

21. Elliot, General Simon,
House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

22. Emmett Cottage

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

23. Fernwood

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

24. Fire Station #7

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

25. Fisher Hill Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

26. Francis, Dr. Tappan Eustis,
House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

27. Fuller, Peter, Building

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

28. Goddard, John, House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

29. Graffam Development
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

30. Green Hill Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper Delores Byers 10/17/85

Attest

85003269

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Fuller, Peter, Building (Brookline MRA)
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP / 1 1985

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85

Action: ACCEPT 10-17-85

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair

- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other


Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Peter Fuller Bldg
808 Comm. Ave.

Brookline (Ma) MRA



BOSTON UNIVERSITY
SPORTS DOUBLE HEADER
JANES BBALL VS UVM 100
HOCKEY VS NU 730
INFO 389 3828

A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story brick building with a grid of windows. A banner is displayed in a large window on the ground floor. A white car is parked on the street in front of the building. The sky is overcast.

Fuller, Peter Bldg.

(Ced. Mac Building)

Brookline MRA, MA



Fuller, Peter, Bldg.
(Cedars Building)
Brookline MRA, MA



Fowler Peter

(Cade Hall Building)

Brookline MA

Boston University

Office of Community Relations
147 Bay State Road
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
617/353-2292



July 10, 1985

Boston University is pleased to support the nomination of the Fuller Cadillac-Oldsmobile Building, 808 Commonwealth Avenue, now owned by the University, to the National Register of Historic Places.

The building was designed in 1928 by Albert Kahn, a Detroit architect of international importance for his work as a designer of industrial structures, especially buildings for the automobile industry. Kahn's Cadillac-Oldsmobile Building is one of the most splendid of the automobile showrooms that were constructed along Commonwealth Avenue in the early twentieth century, several of which the University has purchased and adapted for academic purposes.

With handsome limestone facades of elegant classical proportions, the Cadillac-Oldsmobile Building marks a major intersection in the campus and is a notable landmark for both Commonwealth Avenue and the Charles River Campus.

We endorse this proposal by the Town of Brookline and encourage the recognition of this fine building's historic and architectural significance. The adaptive re-use which the University presently plans for the Cadillac-Oldsmobile building is intended to preserve its architectural integrity, while enhancing its contribution to the academic and cultural life of the University and the surrounding communities.