

ADDRESS 48 Boylston St COR Tamworth St.NAME Boston Young Men's Christian Union - same  
present originalMAP No. 24N/12E SUB AREA Theatre DistrictDATE 1875 - Bradlee Drawings - Athenaeum  
sourceARCHITECT N.J. Bradlee " "  
WT Winslow sourceBUILDER Morton & Chesley  
sourceOWNER B.Y.M.C.U. same  
original present

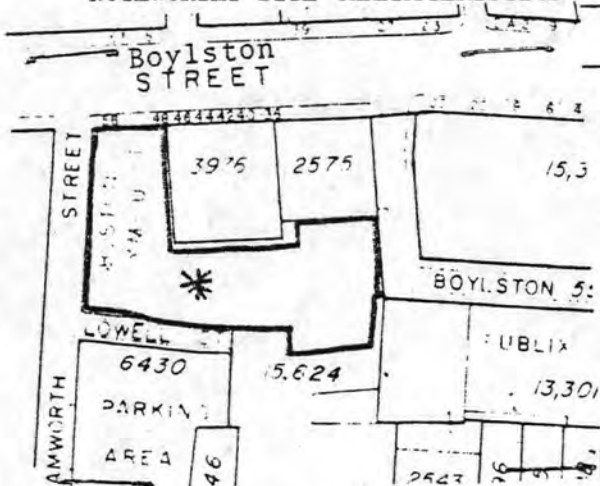
PHOTOGRAPHS \_\_\_\_\_

Ward 3, Parcel 4893, UTM# 19/329940/4690700  
(Ind. Ref. #)TYPE (residential) single double row 2-fam. 3-deck ten apt.  
(non-residential)NO. OF STORIES (1st to cornice) 5 plus \_\_\_\_\_ROOF flat cupola dormersMATERIALS (Frame) clapboards shingles stucco asphalt asbestos alum/vinyl  
(Other) (brick) stone-granite; concrete iron/steel/alum.  
for facade sandstone

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

L-shaped institutional structure in High Victorian Gothic style;  
two-part facade with main 3-bay mass with ground floor storefront  
and side dock tower and ground floor entry that projects slightly  
from facade plane. Highly decorative and polychrome elevation.EXTERIOR ALTERATION minor (moderate) drastic clock tower removed 1927CONDITION good fair poor \_\_\_\_\_ LOT AREA \_\_\_\_\_ sq. feet

## NOTEWORTHY SITE CHARACTERISTICS

SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd on reverse) The Union was  
founded in 1851 by Harvard students as a  
biblical christian literature discussion  
group and evolved into a fellowship institu-  
tion; especially for youths in pursuit of  
careers who flocked to the cities in the  
later 19th century. They occupied several  
structures before building the Boylston St.  
structure. The site was chosen for its

NOV 7 1980

NRI

DEC 9 1980

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

Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                           |          |                            |       |            |          |
|---------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|------------|----------|
| Aboriginal                | _____    | Conservation               | _____ | Recreation | _____    |
| Agricultural              | _____    | Education                  | _____ | Religion   | _____    |
| Architectural             | <u>x</u> | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/   | _____    |
| The Arts                  | _____    | Industry                   | _____ | Union      | _____    |
| Commerce                  | _____    | Military                   | _____ | Victorian  | <u>x</u> |
| Communication             | _____    | Political                  | _____ | Station    | _____    |
| Community/<br>development | _____    |                            |       |            |          |

Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

central location and proximity to many residential neighborhoods, and the building contained retail ground floor space (initially leased to a bank), an auditorium, library, gymnasium, social and game rooms, and Union offices. Bradlee & Winslow were selected as architects, an obvious choice because Bradlee himself was a life member and brother of a founder. The building is architecturally significant as the most accomplished example in the High Victorian Gothic style remaining in the Central Business District. Bradlee's firm designed hundreds of structures, many in the CBD; however, few remain there. The BYMCU originally formed a cluster with the 1867 Masonic Temple and Boylston Hotel, both in the High Victorian Gothic style. The style's popularity as well, perhaps, as its ecclesiastical overtones, befitted the image of a Christian service, fellowship-oriented institution for young middle class workingmen. The Union remains as one of a dozen remaining High Victorian Gothic structures and one of very few built for non-commercial uses.

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

Designated a Landmark by Boston Landmarks Commission.  
Accessibility remains due to continued historic use; open to membership which essentially is public.

Recommended for National Register listing (individual)

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

BYMCU Study Report, Boston Landmarks Commission, 10/27/77.

## 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

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 L. Wesbrocki 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  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/7/80

Attest: Patrick Andrews  
Chief of Registration

date 12/4/80



Property

Boston Theatre Multiple Resource Area

State

MA, Suffolk

Working Number

11, 7, 80, 2781

DUE

1/7/81

## TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 11Maps 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 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.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered DEC 9 1990Federal Register Entry 2.2.82

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



Boston Young Men's Christian  
Union

Boston Theater MRA

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000272