

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Massachusetts
COUNTY:
Suffolk
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
MAY 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:

(Sawyer Building)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Youth's Companion Building (use for publication)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

140-144 Berkeley Street and 195-217 Columbus Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

9th

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Suffolk

CODE

025

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☒ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ ☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Black and White Taxi Service Co.

STREET AND NUMBER:

209 Columbus Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:

Suffolk County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

(1) South Cove Urban Renewal Plan - R-92/R-213; Table B; C-7

DATE OF SURVEY:

☐ Federal☐ State☐ County☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Boston Redevelopment Authority

STREET AND NUMBER:

Boston City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Suffolk
ENTRY NUMBER: 101
DATE: MAY 2 1974
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Youth's Companion Building, a brick and red sandstone structure, is a modified Richardson Romanesque of block almost rectangular in shape with a flat roof. It is a massive five story block with a strong symmetrical design that is generated by balanced horizontal and vertical emphases. (The monumental central portal has a recessed entranceway beneath wide coffered span of the Syrian arch. The wall surface is inscribed by a rectilinear frame - the entire portal inspired by Louis Sullivan's Chicago examples. A one story replica is repeated in smaller scale for the Berkeley Street entrance. The five floors are treated as individual layers except for the third and fourth floors which are unified; each layer is separated by an ornamental protruding stringcourse and has its own type windows. The windows are grouped in bays, seven on the main facade and three on ^{the} side facade with the largest number of windows in the center bay and fewer in the corner bays. The rectangular windows are uniformly proportioned. Each window is divided in thirds; the upper third is bisected by a narrow mullion and is separated by an immobile upper transom, which in total provides a delicate horizontal emphasis. The lower two thirds is a movable, one over one double hung sash.

The horizontality of the floor layers is counter balanced by vertical arrangement of the window bays that alternate with unadorned piers. The third and fourth story window bays form an arcade of round-headed arches mounted on clusters of slender engaged colonettes which reinforce the upward thrust. The corners are emphasized by broad arched ground floor windows (repeating the entrance portal motif) and by the subtle protrusion of the entire corner-piers and window bay.

The ground floor is smooth red sandstone, and the upper floors are reddish buff brick. The sandstone, largely quarried in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, is repeated in the carved ornamentation which is limited to stringcourses, arched portals, and spandrels. The spandrels have an extremely low relief foliate pattern bordered by Romanesque mouldings and imposts. Dressed brick is used for the third and fourth story colonettes and architraves on all the windows. Likewise, dressed brick that creates a sawtooth pattern frames each window bay and unifies the entire design. The main portal is three coffers wide, and the tympanum is penetrated by geometrically shaped single lights. Unfortunately, the name of the original publishing house, Perry Mason Publishing Co., incised on the extrados has been covered by wooden pieces. Flanking this portal are two date panels, "1891" on the right facing the entrance (date of construction) and "1827" on the left (date of founding of publication). Downspouts are concealed in the walls and drain out through lion heads beside the entrance.

The interior supports of the building are of cast iron. Thirty-seven hundred Maine spruce trees were placed upside down under the building; iron piers were fastened to granite blocks placed among the trees before the foundation of granite and stone was laid. They reach the roof, making all the columns in the building in alignment.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FILE NO. 112401

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1890-1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☒ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Philosophy☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Science☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Sculpture☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☒ Social/Humanitarian☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Theater☐ Commerce☒ Literature☐ Transportation☒ Communications☐ Military☐ Conservation☐ Music

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Youth's Companion Building was started in 1890 and was completed in 1892 and was perceived as a monument, an advertisement, a warranty of the character of the owner, the Perry Mason Publishing Company. It was designed by William Cummings Richardson and Henry W. Hartwell, two Boston architects who also designed Christ Church in Andover, Massachusetts, the Latin School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the Exeter Street Theatre in Boston, in addition to several schools in Newton. The building takes the manner of Henry Hobson Richardson and modifies it into something that approaches the style of Louis Sullivan's Chicago Auditorium and Stock Exchange.

The building's location in Back Bay, then the "new" area of Boston, and within walking distance of Back Bay Station, was conveniently located near the business center and accessible for easy contacts. Columbus Avenue had been recently constructed and was one of the broadest streets in Boston. At the time of its construction, the Youth's Companion Building was larger than any other building near it; five stories above the basement and 92 feet high from the sidewalk to balustrade. It is described in King's How to See Boston as an immense and impressive brownstone building, one of the many magnificent buildings along Columbus Avenue, one of the most prominent thoroughfares in the city.

The firm awarded the building contract to Norcross Brothers of Worcester, Massachusetts, the firm which was responsible for the building of Trinity Church among many other commercial buildings throughout the City. Norcross invented the flat-slab construction of reinforced concrete, used slabs of granite, and experimented in the use of sandstone. Fiske, Coleman, and Co. of Boston was responsible for the design of the 426 different patterns and mouldings used in the ornamentation.

The Youth's Companion Building was owned by Daniel Sharp Ford, publisher and owner of the Youth's Companion, a weekly, illustrated periodical for young people which would interest them and at the same time direct their attention to the beauties of Christian character, the value of education, and the importance of industry, thrift, and upright living. It was founded in 1827 and had among its contributors virtually every noted author of the day. It was the foremost literary paper of its time with a circulation exceeding 540,000 copies. It ceased publication in 1929 at which date it was absorbed by American Boy.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Boston Evening Transcript, "One Hundred Years of the Youth's Companion" August 10, 1929, Book Section, p. 1-2.
2. Damrell, Charles, A Half Century of Boston's Building, Boston, 1895, p. 82.
3. Harris, Louise, None But the Best, Brown University, p. 48.
4. King, Moses, Boston Views
5. Ranlett, Felix, Youth Companion as Recalled by a Staff Member
6. Schuyler, Montgomery, "The Romanesque Revival in America, Architectural Record, vol. 1, 1891-2, p. 174.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42 ° 20 ' 54.63	71 ° 04 ' 22.30"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 26,841 square feet less than one

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Elizabeth Amadon, Survey Director by Boston Landmarks Commission

ORGANIZATION
Massachusetts Historical Commission (617) 727-8470

DATE
December, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE
Massachusetts

CODE
025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name John F. X. Davoren
Honorable John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Title Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date 3/22/74

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

ABW...
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/2/74

ATTEST:
...
Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.1.74

19/339260/4690320
UTM REF W M 9-19-75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DAY 2	1974

(Number all entries)

#7. DESCRIPTION

Youth's Companion Building, Boston

The building's interior has been altered on the interior to some degree. In addition to these changes, projecting shop windows were constructed on the side facing Columbus Avenue. A brownstone parapet was substituted for the original balustraded cornice, and in 1953 the parapet was repaired by removing the architectural terra-cotta and replacing it with cut stone and brick.

#8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Youth's Companion Building was also the birthplace of the Pledge of Allegiance. It was written, printed for the first time, and popularized around the United States in 1892 to commemorate the 400th Anniversary of Columbus in America.

#6 EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State Survey

Depository: Massachusetts Historical Commission (617) 727-8470

Address: 40 Beacon Street, Boston, MA

Code:025



PROPERTY Youth's Companion Building
(Samyer Building) STATE Mass
WORKING NUMBER 4.3.74.519

Suffolk

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS 4

MAPS 2

CONTROL REVIEW

Xerox photo forms. #10 Heritage is missing

cm
4.4.
73

otherwise OK

HISTORIAN

Accept
W.R. Luce
4/5/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Present use?: office & commercial

Accept
J.J.
4/9/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Colz
4-28-74

BRANCH CHIEF

Hunt
4-30-74
Accept

KEEPER

Wm
5/1/74

National Register Write-up June 10, 1974

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry June 4, 1974

Re-submit _____

Entered _____

MAY 2 1974

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION SHEET

State's Name Mass

County Name Suffolk

Resource Name Youth's Companion 131st

Data Collector's Surname Humb

Today's Date 3/28/85

Federal Register List 74000393

Cert. Date 5/2/74

Describe Problem

Is this property really significant for
"Education", ~~and~~ "General Humanities",
or "Communications"?

Team Leader _____ Date ____/____/____ N R Staff _____ Date ____/____/____

Fill out in duplicate and place one copy with the nomination in the problem box, and the other in the weekly production folder.



Youth's Companion Building
142 Berkeley St

#4

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

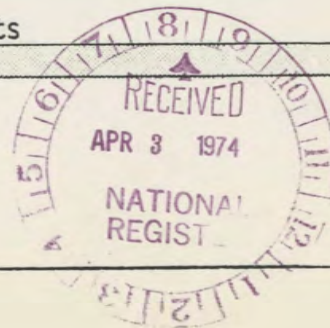
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 2 1974	DATE

#4

1. NAME			
COMMON: Sawyer Building			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Youth's Companion Building			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 140-144 Berkeley Street and 195-217 Columbus Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 025
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Boston Redevelopment Authority			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Boston Redevelopment Authority Boston City Hall, Boston, Massachusetts			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View of Berkeley Street entrance #1 of 4 photos			





Youth's Companion Building
209 Columbus Ave

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

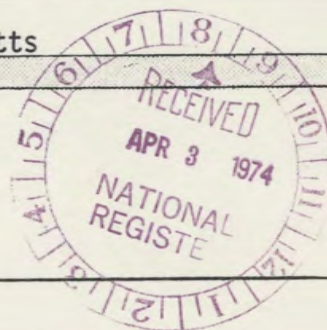
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2 1974	

1. NAME			
COMMON: Sawyer Building			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Youth's Companion Building			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 140-144 Berkeley Street and 195-217 Columbus Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 025
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Boston Redevelopment Authority			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Boston Redevelopment Authority Boston City Hall, Boston, Massachusetts			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View of Columbus Avenue entrance #2 of 4 photos			



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Youth's Companion Building
209 Columbus Ave

#3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

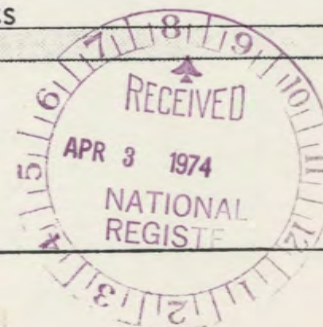
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2	1974

#3

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Sawyer Building			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Youth's Companion Building			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 140-144 Berkeley Street and 195-217 Columbus Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 025
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Boston Redevelopment Authority			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1973			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Boston Redevelopment Authority Boston City Hall, Boston, Massachusetts			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View of Columbus Avenue portal ceiling #3 of 4 photos			



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Youth's Companion Building
209 Columbus Ave

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

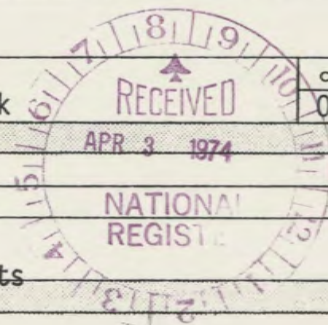
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAY 2	1974

1. NAME		
COMMON: Sawyer Building		
AND/OR HISTORIC: Youth's Companion Building		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: 140-144 Berkeley Street and 195-217 Columbus Avenue		
CITY OR TOWN: Boston		
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Suffolk
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT: Boston Redevelopment Authority		
DATE OF PHOTO: 1973		
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Boston Redevelopment Authority Boston City Hall, Boston, Massachusetts		
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View of Columbus Avenue facade and part of Berkeley Street facade looking northwesterly #4 of 4 photos		



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 2 1974	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Sawyer Building
AND/OR HISTORIC: Youth's Companion Building

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

140-144 Berkeley Street and 195-217 Columbus Ave

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Suffolk

CODE

025

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

USGS 7.5' Series, Boston South Quadrangle

SCALE:

1:24,000

DATE:

1970

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

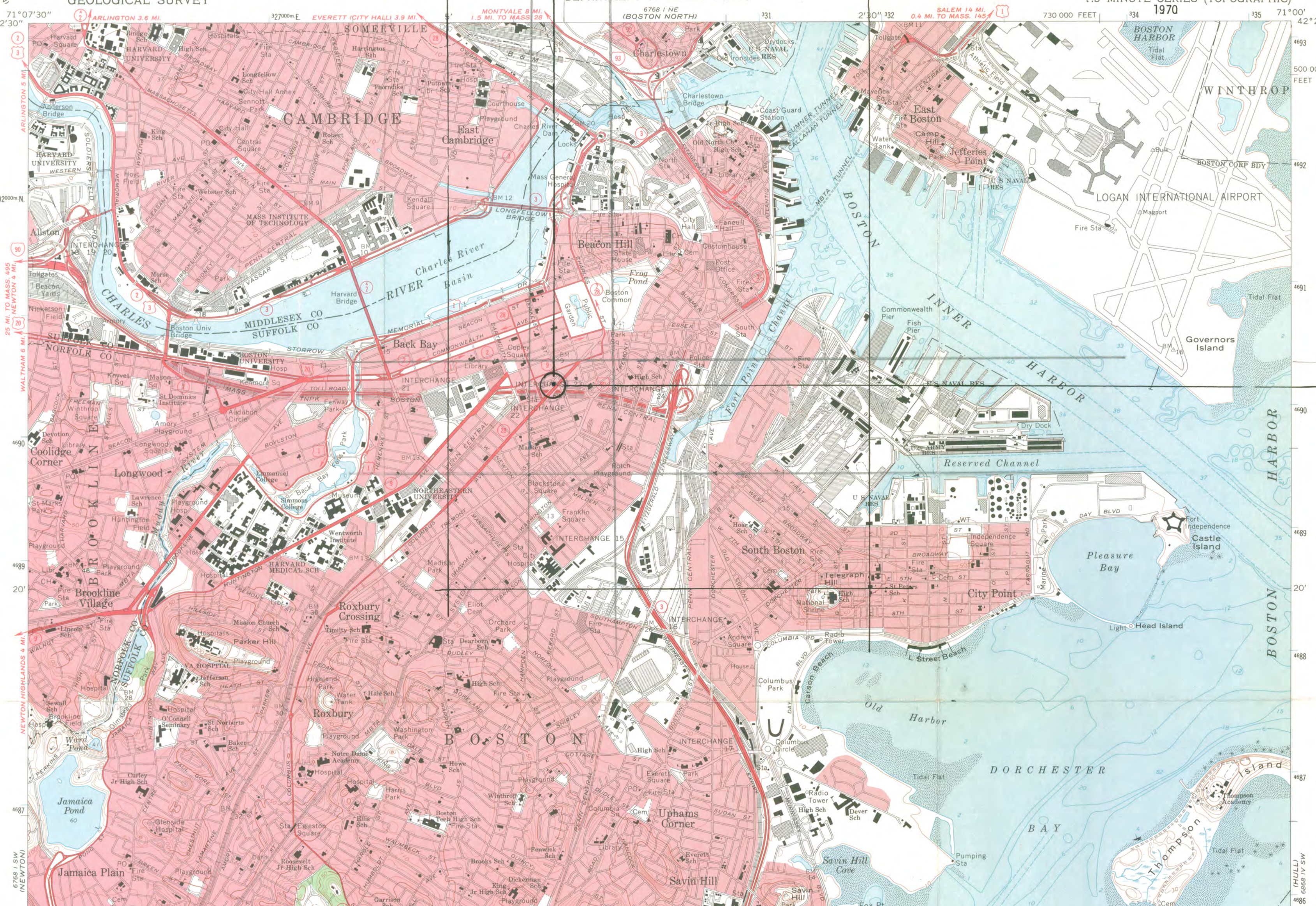


SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
1970



YOUTH'S COMPANION BLDG
Boston, Mass.

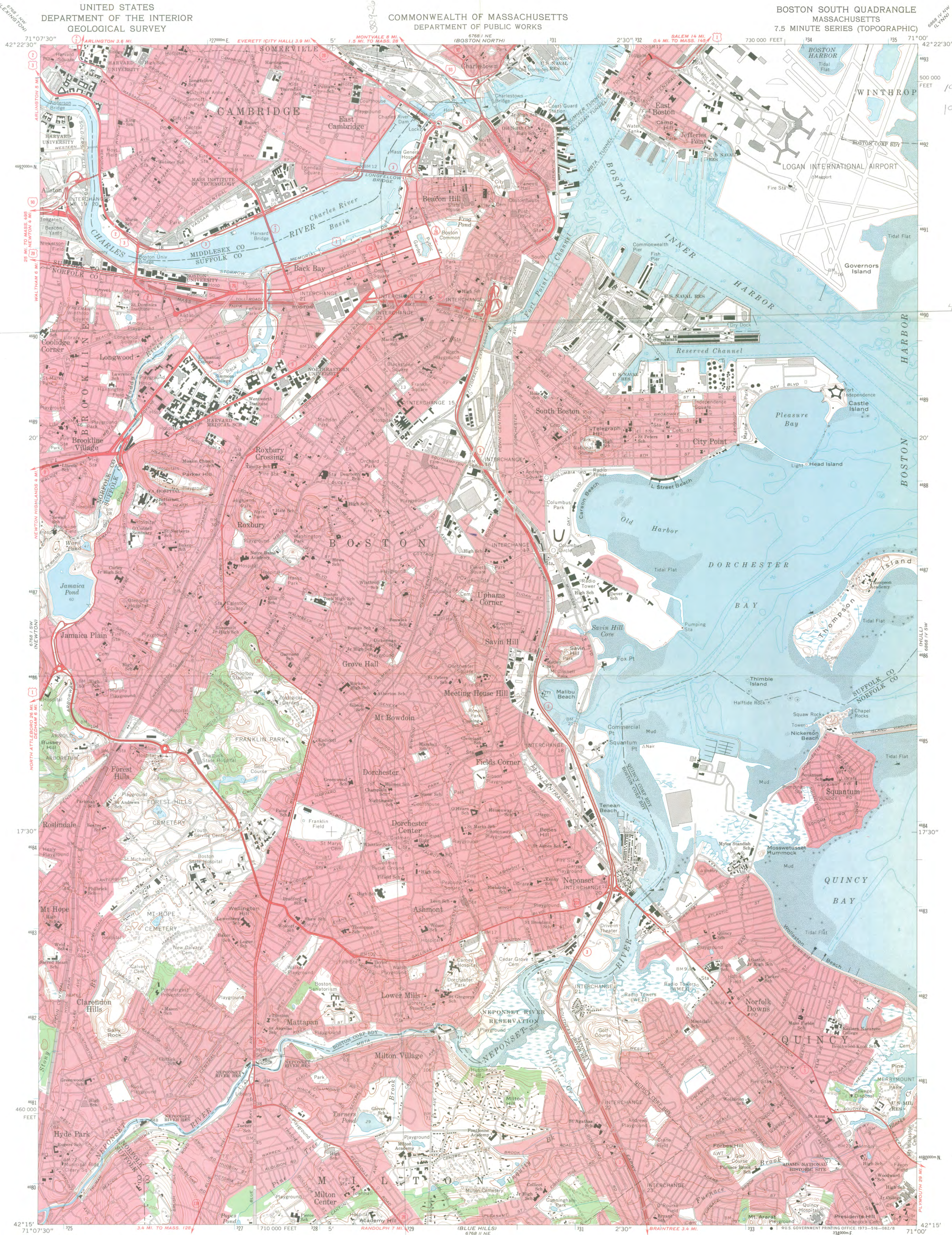
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LONG: 71°04' 22.30"

Sawyer Bldg

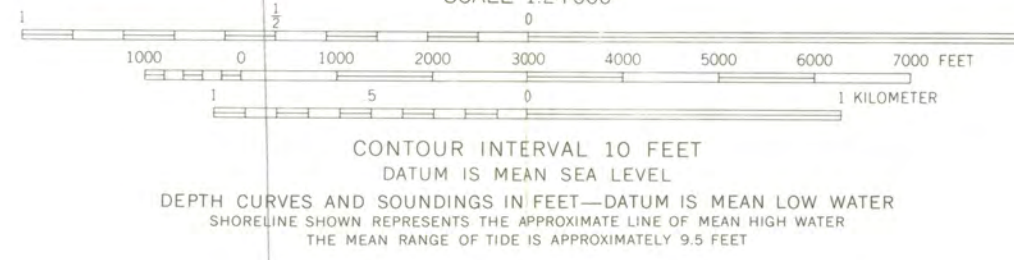
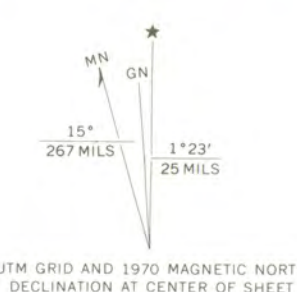
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



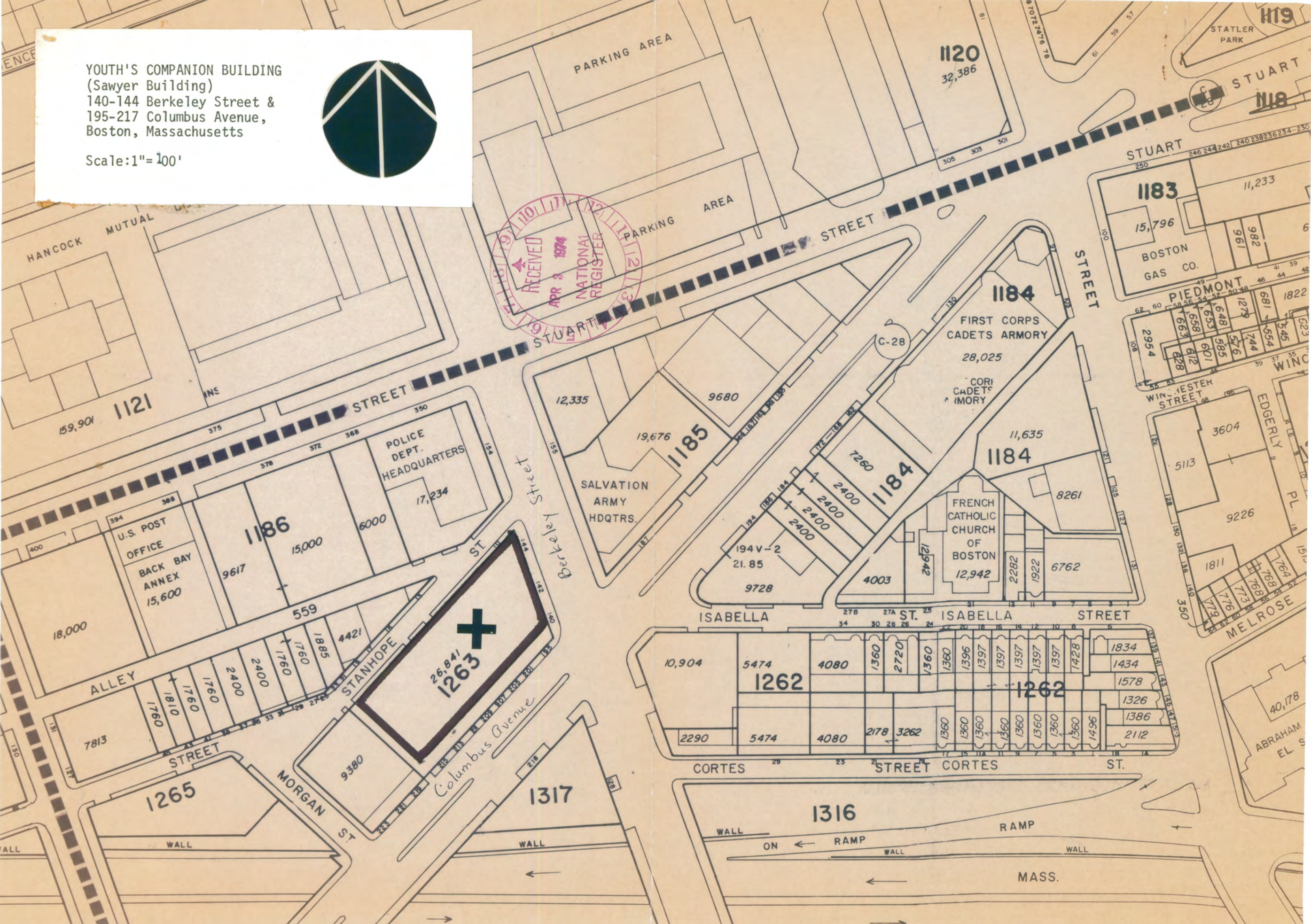
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from US&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational
purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
U. S. Route
State Route

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5
1970
AMS 6768 I SE—SERIES V814

Scale: 1" = 100'



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

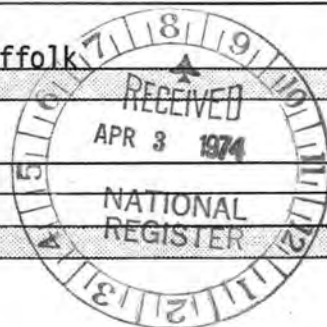
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
DAY 2	1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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AND/OR HISTORIC: Youth's Companion Building			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
140-144 Berkeley Street and 195-217 Columbus Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Boston			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Suffolk	025
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
Boston Redevelopment Authority			
SCALE: 1" = 100'			
DATE: June 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER
MASSACHUSETTS
STATE

Date Entered MAY 2 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
The Steamship NOBSKA	Nantucket Nantucket County
Clapp Houses	Boston (Dorchester) Suffolk County
Youth's Companion Building (Sawyer Building) Sawyer Building	Boston Suffolk County
Martin House	Seekonk Bristol County
King's Chapel Burying Ground	Boston Suffolk County
Court Square Historic District	Springfield Hampden County

<u>Also Notified</u>	<u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u>
Hon. Edward W. Brooke	Hon. John F.X. Davoren
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy	Secretary of the Commonwealth
Hon. Gerry E. Studds	Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Hon. John J. Moakley	Commission
Hon. Margaret M. Heckler	40 Beacon St.
Hon. Edward P. Boland	Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Regional Director, North
Atlantic Region

PR MMott/row 5/3/74