

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCERS use only

received **MAR 18 1982**  
date entered **APR 15 1982**

## 1. Name

historic Lyman Block

and/or common same

## 2. Location

street & number 83<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 91 Main Street N/A not for publication

city, town Brockton N/A vicinity of congressional district 11th

state Massachusetts code 025 county Plymouth code 023

## 3. Classification

| Category                                        | Ownership                                   | Status                                               | Present Use                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied                    | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted  | <input type="checkbox"/> government            |
|                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted           | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial            |
|                                                 |                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> no                          | <input type="checkbox"/> military              |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> park                  |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence     |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> religious             |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific            |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation        |
|                                                 |                                             |                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                |

## 4. Owner of Property

name Brockton Centre Associates

street & number 77 North Washington Street

city, town Boston N/A vicinity of Massachusetts state 02114

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Plymouth County Registry of Deeds

street & number Russell Street

city, town Plymouth state Massachusetts

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town 294 Washington Street Boston, state MA. 02108

## 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

The 1876 Lyman Block is located in downtown Brockton at the corner of Main Street and Legion Parkway. It is a four story, twelve bay wide structure constructed of red brick with brownstone lintels and sills which are surmounted by a console bracketed sheet metal cornice. Two elongated brick panels form an additional horizontal element between the top floor windows and the cornice. The brownstone lintels are articulated by incised floral ornaments and the console brackets are highlighted with acanthus decoration. An additional embellishment to the main facade is a stone panel between the third and fourth floor with incised letters indicating the name of the building.

The use of these materials and motifs is repeated in the adjoining Howard Block which is stylistically similar to the Lyman Block and also erected in 1876. Together they constitute half of the intact 19th century Main Street block between High Street and Legion Parkway.

The central bay of the Lyman Block is denoted by its larger size and variation of segmental lintels. The windows were originally double hung, 2/2 but are now fixed sash with hopper. The Lyman Block is shorter than the Howard Block because of the latter's upper story public hall. The granite quoins which visually delineate the separation of the Lyman Block from the Howard Block also indicate the existence of a party wall between them. These granite quoins, which are also at the corner of the Lyman Block, enframe its facade.

The first floor along Main Street was originally open, with storefronts. Seven granite columns and a 12" x 12" timber beam supported the masonry above. The center bay served as the entrance to the floors above. With the creation of Legion Parkway, this storefront construction was continued along the new street. At this time, access to the upper floors was shifted to a new entry on Legion Parkway, while the space occupied by the original entry bay on Main Street was taken over for commercial use.

The Legion Parkway facade is more modest with simple limestone lintels and sills. Some larger scale openings were made in this wall shortly after it was exposed to view by the construction of Legion Parkway, and these openings have concrete lintels and sills which match the originals in color.

Today, the building remains largely unaltered with its post-Legion Parkway modifications. Most of the original granite columns have been removed over the years by the succession of shopkeepers who continually remodeled their stores. (See photo) A small, two story addition at the rear of the building built c.1910 was removed in 1979 when the upper floors were converted into elderly housing, thus restoring the structure to its original 1876 size.

## 8. Significance

| Period                                        | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |                                                 |                                                 |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|                                               |                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates 1876 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lyman Block is an excellent example of 19th century commercial development. Constructed in 1876 to serve as the new home of the prominent furniture and casket manufacturers Howard Clark & Co., it forms an integral part of the largest and most prominent block of 19th century buildings remaining in Brockton. With the destruction of the historic Bixby Block/Home Bank Building (former NR) by fire in 1979, this group of buildings has become one of the focal points of the Main Street business district. The building therefore meets criteria B and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

Lyman Clark, Rufus Kimball, E.G. Rhodes, and W.H. Savage were the owners of Howard, Clark & Co., at the time of construction, but Clark, for whom the building was named, must have held a major interest. At age 70 when construction began, Clark was the oldest partner. He had founded the firm in 1829 with Samuel Howard, the furniture maker, to whom Clark was apprenticed at age 16.

Clark became active in real estate, and was the owner of many of Brockton's buildings by the time of his death in 1885. Lyman Clark must have used his first name to identify the 1876 structure because a "Clark Block" already existed, standing at the corner of Main Street and Centre Street, directly across from the Lyman Block. The Clark Block, erected five years earlier, was three stories in height, but identical to the Lyman and Howard Buildings in architectural detail. The quoins, brownstone, lintels, and bracketed cornice were copied directly from the earlier structures (now demolished).

Howard Clark & Co., was a prominent furniture manufacturer long before construction of the Lyman Block. "Having removed to the new brick block on Main Street", they advertised in 1876, "We are prepared to fill all orders for rich and fashionable furniture." But they did not occupy the entire building. The upper floors of the Lyman Block were tenanted by numerous businesses. References are made to Lyman Block merchants in an 1878 business directory under such diverse headings as "Birds and Birdcages," "Coffins and Caskets," "Corsets," "Picture Framers," and "Upholsterers." One dentist, two lawyers, a Justice of the Peace, and a Notary Public were also listed. The mix probably typical of the merchants one would find in any commercial building along Main Street at that time.

After the turn of the century, the type of tenants gradually began to change from professionals and specialty shops to light industrial businesses. The upper floors were gradually abandoned until in the 1960's only a pool hall was left on the second floor. The buildings is now being used for elderly housing.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Kingman, Bradford, The History of Brockton, Syracuse, 1895
2. Plymouth County Registry of Deeds
3. Mercantile Illustrating Co. Brockton and Its Points of Interest New York, 1895  
(See continuation sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 6720 sf

Quadrangle name Brockton

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A 19 332860 4660820  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Lyman Block occupies part of the block bounded by Main Street to the east, High Street to the south and Legion Parkway to the north. It is bounded by the Howard Block to the south

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state      | code | county | code |
|------------|------|--------|------|
| <u>N/A</u> |      |        |      |
| state      | code | county | code |

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edward J. Halligan, Preservation Planner, with Miguel Gomez-Ibanez, Associate Vice President, Endeavor, Inc., Architects

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

date December 1980

street & number 294 Washington Street

telephone 727-8470

city or town Boston, Massachusetts

state

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X 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

Patience H. Weslowski

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission

date

2/25/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

4/15/82

for William Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

**MAR 18 1982**

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

4. Board of Trade Manual of the City of Brockton, Brockton 1899
5. Greenough & Company Brockton & Bridgewater Directory, Boston 1872-1909
6. Caldwell, WH, Brockton, Historical, Descriptive & Picturesque, Brockton, 1898
7. J.D. Hall & Co. Brockton Commercial Bulletin, Vol. 1, Brockton 1894

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 18 1982

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Lyman Building

AND/OR COMMON

same

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Brockton

VICINITY OF

Plymouth

COUNTY

MA

STATE

**3** MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

sketch map

SCALE

no scale

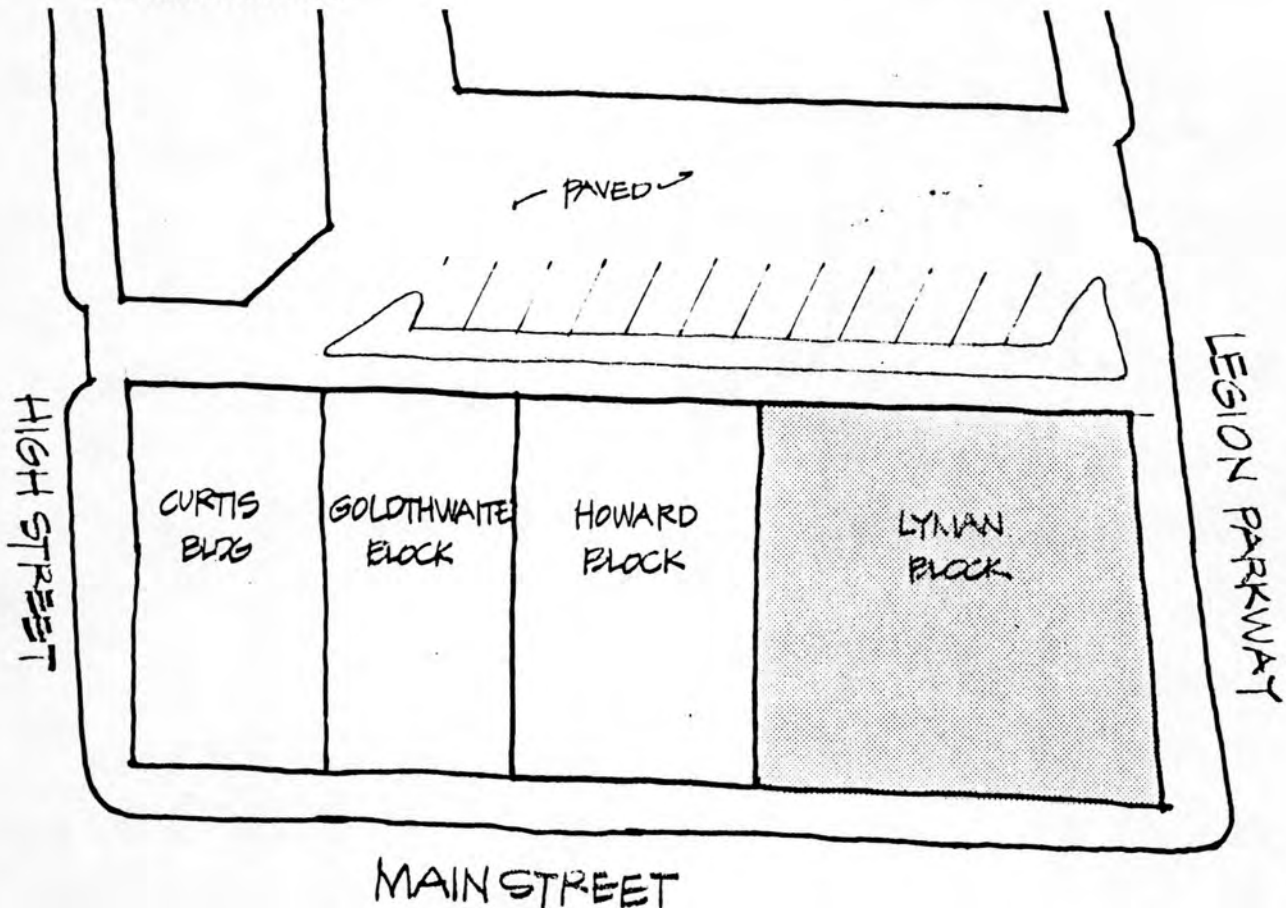
DATE

March 1980

**4** REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



NORTH →

NATIONAL REGIST OF HISTO IC PLAC  
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Property: Lyman Block  
State, County: MA, Plymouth  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 3-18-82-817

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 4/15/82 - 5/2/82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/15/82

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Entered in the  
National Register

photos ☒  
maps ☒

- ☐ 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          | Status     | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

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                          | Check one                             | Check one                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
|                                    |                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

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## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

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## **10. Geographical Data**

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

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## **11. Form Prepared By**

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## **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: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Lyman Block  
Brockton, MA

Miguel Gomez-Ibanez      March 1980  
Endevor, INC.  
77 N. Wasnington, St., Boston

Photo #3 of 4  
Legion Parkway & Main St. elevations

LYMAN BLOCK  
MAIN ST. & LEGION PARKWAY ELEVATIONS  
BROCKTON, MA



Lyman Block  
Brockton, MA

Miguel Gomez-Ibanez      March 1980  
Endevor, INC.  
77 N. Washington St., Boston

Photo # 4 of 4  
Rear elevation looking south

LYMAN BLOCK  
REAR ELEVATION  
BROCKTON, MA

## Missing Core Documentation

**Property Name**

Lyman Block

**County, State**

Plymouth,  
Massachusetts

**Reference Number**

82004430

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☒ Photographs (#s: 1-2)

☐ USGS Map



# endeavor inc

77 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET • BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS 02114 • 617/523-7040

January 26, 1982

RECEIVED

JAN 26 1982

Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02108

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Dear Ms. Weslowski:

Re Goldthwaite Block  
Howard Block  
Lyman Block

This will confirm that the owners of the above referenced project are firmly in accordance with having our buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We believe that this nomination as well as designation would act us to assist us in preserving these buildings. In addition, it will act as a significant factor in the revitalization of downtown Brockton.

Again I would like to reconfirm enthusiastically our listing of our buildings for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions I would be very happy to appear in person or to do whatever is necessary to assist your organization in the completion of this important work.

Yours very truly,



Gilbert V. Boro  
Managing General Partner  
Brockton Centre Associates

GVB/kf

cc: Miguel Comez-Ibanez  
Ray Faulkner  
Gerard F. Doherty, Esq.  
Edward Fish



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 15, 1982

| <u>Name</u>       | <u>Location</u>                      |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Camp Atwater      | North Brookfield<br>Worcester County |
| Lyman Block       | Brockton<br>Plymouth County          |
| Curtis Building   | Brockton<br>Plymouth County          |
| Goldthwaite Block | Brockton<br>Plymouth County          |
| Howard Block      | Brockton<br>Plymouth County          |

Notified

Honorable Edward P. Boland  
Honorable Brian J. Donnelly  
Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Paul E. Tsongas  
  
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, NPS  
North Atlantic Regional Office, NPS

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski  
Executive Director, Massachusetts  
Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108