

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	46

Roll 19:1A

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

Photo number _____

Town Stoneham

Address Central Square

Historic Name Dow Block

Present Owner: Dominic Errico

Original Owner: Moses Dow

Use: Present Mixed retail and commercial

Original Commercial & public institu-
tional

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1864

Source Town history

Style Second Empire

Architect Unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick

Outbuildings None

Major alterations (with dates) Altered

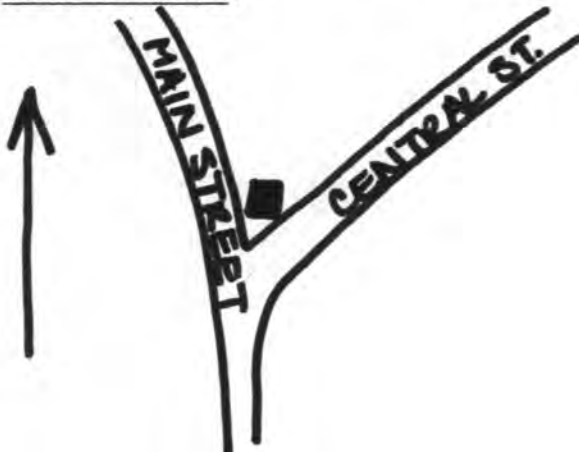
at first-story shop level, mid 20th
century.

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage 2,926 sq. feet

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.



Recorded by Carole Zellie; ed. Candace Jenkins Setting Central Square; main commercial

Organization Landscape Research district

Date May, 1979 (1983)

Assessor's Map # 18-215

UTM: Boston North Quad
19 327340 4704920

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Dow Block (1864) is the most important of the three major mid-late 19th century commercial blocks which define Stoneham's Central Square; the others are the Chase Block (42; 1874) and the Odd Fellows Building (43; ca. 1870). The Dow Block achieves this stature through its early date, the quality and integrity of its Second Empire style design, and its key location at the intersection of Main and Central Streets. The brick, rectangular plan structure rises three stories to a patterned slate roof. It is articulated by sandstone quoins, a bracketed cornice and a slightly projecting central pavillion. Sash on the facade is vertically aligned and grouped in threes; third story windows are headed by molded sandstone lintels while second and third story windows are separated by Stick Style panels. The ground floor, containing storefronts, is relatively intact with original posts and lintels still in place.

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

The Dow Block is significant as one of three major mid-late 19th century commercial buildings at the town center. Dating from the 1860s and 1870s, a time of considerable prosperity in the local shoe industry, all three directly reflect the town's development. Additionally, the Dow Block is significant as a good local example of Second Empire style commercial architecture. Thus the Dow Block meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

The Dow Block was built by an outside investor from Charlestown in 1864. Occupying the apex of the triangle formed by Main, Central, and Central Square, it was and is the most imposing building in the Square. Nineteenth century use was similar to that of today, with some original functions such as space for the Public Library and Post Office.

Moses Dow, the builder, was the editor of the Waverly Magazine and owner of several important Charlestown buildings, including the Waverly House, a now-razed hotel.

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

Stevens, History of Stoneham.

1887 Sanborn Map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 2/28/84
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 7

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Stoneham Multiple Resource Area
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Buswell, Clara, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

12. Chamberlain, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

13. Cogan, Bernard, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

14. Cogan, James, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

15. Colonial Beacon Gas Station

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

16. Cowdrey, George, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

17. Daniels, Blake, Cottage

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

18. Dean, Silas, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

19. Dow Block

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

20. Durgin, E. A., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper Silvana Byers 4/13/84

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Dow Block (Stoneham MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. FEB 28 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/5/85
Date Due: 3-29-84 - 4-13-84
Action: ACCEPT 4-13-84
 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	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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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: _____



Advertisement in top-left dormer window.

Advertisement in top-middle dormer window.

Advertisement in top-right dormer window.

Advertisement in second-floor window on the left.

JANET'S
TWO (90)
438-3473

Advertisement in second-floor window on the right.

Advertisement in third-floor window on the left.

FEED
NEET

Advertisement in third-floor window on the right.

MIDDLESEX DRUG CO.
DOMINIC & ERICO REG. PHARM.

PRO-PRINTING GRAPHICS 437-0397

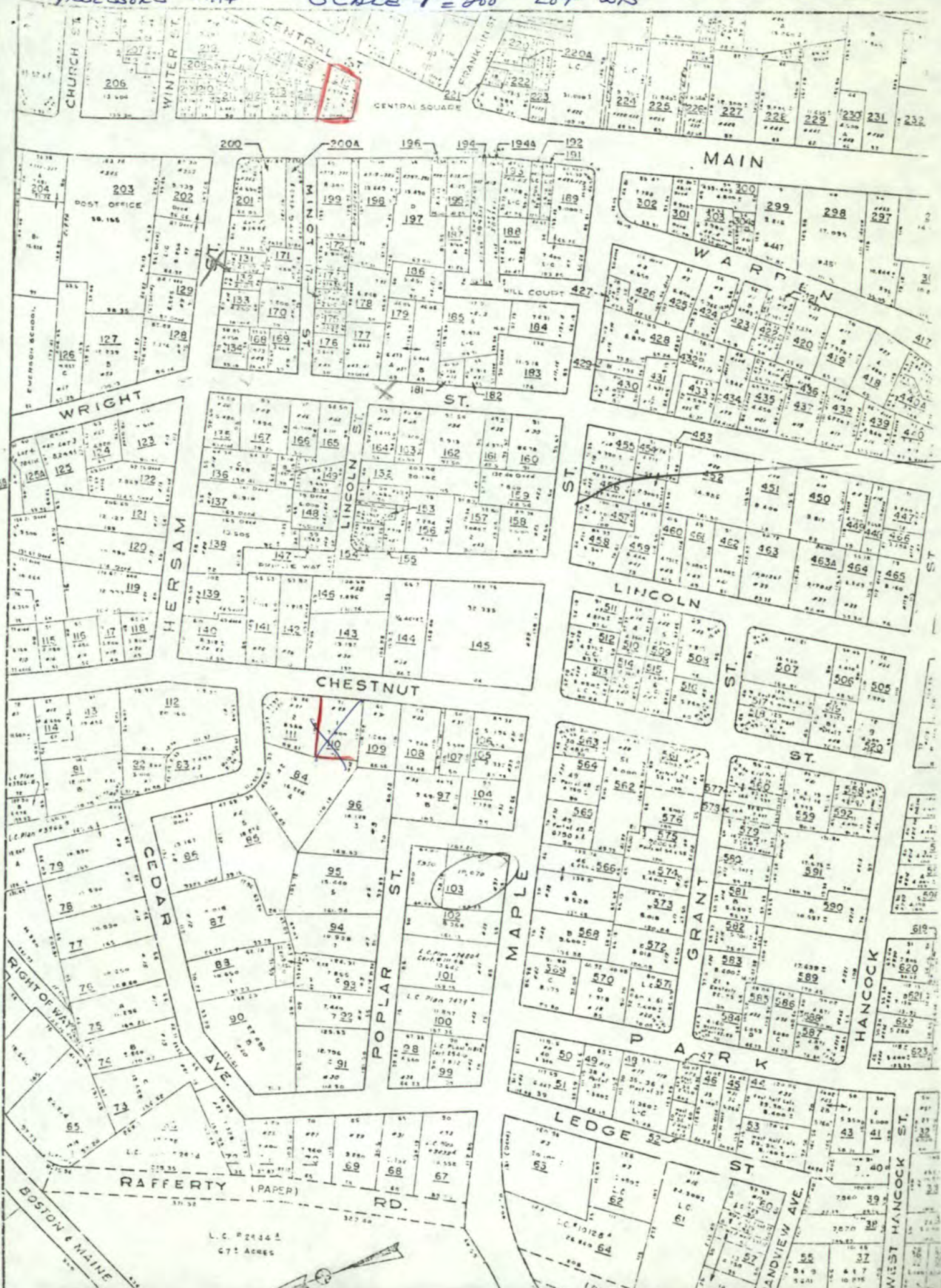
AQUARIUS TOURS & TRAVEL



How Brook

Sturham Vt, Ma

8130



L.C. #24461
67 ACRES



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: _____ 64000295