

**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 HCRS use only

received

MAR 18 1982

date entered

APR 15 1982

1. Name

historic Roughan Hall

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number 15718 City Square

N/A not for publication

city, town Boston (Charlestown) N/A vicinity of congressional district Eighth

state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☐ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☒ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☐ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☒ other: VACANT

4. Owner of Property

name Park Street Trust c/o Cordell Engineering, Inc.

street & number 210 Broadway

city, town Everett N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts 02149

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds Suffolk County Courthouse

street & number Pemberton Square

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date April, 1980 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts 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

Roughan Hall is located in City Square, the gateway to Charlestown from Boston Proper. It is across Main Street from the Town Hill Historic District (NR-1970), and is a short distance from the Charlestown Navy Yard, home of the USS Constitution (NR-1966). The area surrounding the building is characterized by mixed residential, commercial, municipal, and institutional use and the Highway Interchange system of Interstates 93 and 95.

Roughan Hall is a four-story, plus truss-level, flat-roofed masonry structure, built in two stages in 1892 and 1896. It is built of New Jersey buff brick and its design shows Renaissance Revival and Romanesque Revival influences. The two dressed facades border on City Square and Park Street. The building's irregular plan reflects site boundaries: seventy-five feet on City Square, one hundred and seventeen feet on Park Street and forty-six feet on Roughans Way (the alley). Its seventy-two foot height and imposingly formal and monumental appearance make it the key structure in City Square. It is the only remaining 19th century building in the Square.

Five bays wide, the Park Street facade remains basically unaltered and symmetrical. Molded string courses of limestone above the first and third floors divide the facade according to function-ground floor shops, second and third story offices, and fourth story hall. Windows are treated with a vertical emphasis and are regularly spaced. Second and third floor windows, with splayed brick lintels, are alternately articulated with two-story flat-arched tan terra cotta and patterned brick surrounds. These are surmounted on the fourth floor by tall round arches with terra cotta surrounds enclosing windows divided by heavy wooden tracery into two arched lights and an oculus. A rather flat corbelled cornice is supported by a round-arched arcaded corbel table, with an oculus set in each fourth arch. Storefronts have been obscured but retain their original cast iron Corinthian columns.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☒ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☒ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)
Specific dates	1892 and 1896	Builder/Architect	Arthur H. Vinal, Architect Donovan & Brock, Builders	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Roughan Hall possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship and is an outstanding example of mixed-use, (retail, commercial and private halls) building design in the Boston area. Built in 1892, with an 1896 addition, it is a fine example of late Italian Renaissance revival vernacular commercial architecture. It is one of the few remaining 19th century "Halls" in Boston, and the only remaining 19th century building fronting on City Square. For these reasons, the building meets criterion C.

Roughan Hall was designed by Arthur H. Vinal, and constructed by the firm of Donovan and Brock for Michael Roughan, a prominent businessman and philanthropist in Charlestown. Arthur H. Vinal (1855–1923), who was the municipal architect for the city of Boston in the 1890's, began his career with the widely-known architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns, and in his early twenties started his own practice in Pemberton Square. He was well-known for numerous public, institutional, and residential commissions in Boston and the New England area. He is best known for the lodge at the base of the Bunker Hill Monument, (NR-1966), the Robert B. Brigham Hospital, the Fire Station (1884), and the Police Station (1884 on Boylston near Hereford (now the Institute of Contemporary Art) Back Bay District (NR-1973), and the Opera Houses at Bangor and Augusta, Maine.

City Square, known as the "Market Place" in 1640, was Charlestown's original commercial center. By 1892, it was the site of the Courthouse, the Town Hall, several banks, and a hotel, as well as numerous shops. When Roughan Hall first opened, storefronts lined Park and Main Streets and all of City Square. There were originally four street level stores in Roughan Hall; the City Square occupants were the Charlestown Real Estate Agency and D. J. Griffin-Hatter. In 1897, the Roughan Liquor Store occupied the new street level space in the addition. The basement of Roughan Hall housed three bowling alleys, public bathrooms, billiard and pool tables, and a hair dressing department. The second floor contained offices and clubrooms. The third floor was occupied by Bunker Hill Council, Knights of Columbus, and included a "handsome society hall and suite of rooms."

The main "Hall" on the fourth floor, a two-story open space, with a mezzanine on the City Square end and a stage on the opposite end, was made possible by using a "fancy" Howe Truss system to support the roof. The Howe Truss, using wood and steel to their best advantage, permits a free span of nearly 50 feet in the hall below. In this application, the diagonal wood members slope the same way in either half of the truss, acting in compression, with the vertical steel members acting in tension. The unusual feature in this system is the replacement of the center-panel X-brace with a "Straining Beam," which allows an open passageway through the trusses.

The original Hall, used as a dancing apartment and lecture room, was elaborately decorated. There were six massive plate-glass mirrors, framed in gilt along the walls and two heroic figures of music and dance painted on panels by two unknown German artists. "The frescoing (was) of the richest possible description, and was done under the direction of Assistant Superintendent of Public Buildings, John H. O'Neil."¹ Although in disrepair, moldings, mirror frames, the figure of dance on one panel and fragments of ceiling medallions and other plaster work, are still intact.

9. Major Bibliographical References

152

Boston, The Official Bicentennial Guidebook, E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., NY 1975, p. 143-143-
Boston Evening Globe; Dec. 28, 1912, pg. 16. (Obituary for Michael Roughan).
Boston Evening Transcript, Aug. 25, 1923, Part One, pg. 5 (Obituary for Arthur Vinal
Condit, Carl W., American Building Art, 19th Century, Oxford University Press, NY
1960, pp. 78-102. (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 6288 Square feetQuadrangle name Boston-SouthQuadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

1	9	3	3	0	2	0	0	4	6	9	2	9	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to attached map.

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

Boston Landmarks Commission

name/title Candace Jenkins, Registration Director with Angus Crowe & Assoc. AIA andorganization Massachusetts Historical Commission date Dec., 1980street & number 294 Washington Streettelephone (617) 727-8470city or town Bostonstate Massachusetts 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 Potomac H. Weslowskititle 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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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For HCPS use only	
received	MAR 18 1982
date entered	APR 15 1982

Continuation sheet

Item number

8

Page

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The opening of Roughan Hall was highlighted by a Charity Ball, whose proceeds were given to the poor of Charlestown. Later, the Hall was used by social and fraternal organizations to hold both public and private functions. Through the years, the building has seen such diverse uses as light manufacturing, taverns, a cinema and roller skating, but still reflects its basic division of functions. It remains "without a doubt the most conspicuous (building) in City Square."²

SOURCES

- 1., 2.: "Feature of City Square," the Charlestown Savings Bank Archives, Boston, MA

**United States Department of the Interior
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received

MAR 18 1982

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Feature of City Square," no date, (article celebrating the formal opening), The Charlestown Savings Bank Archives, 55 Summer Street, Boston, MA

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Boughan Hall
 State, County: MA, Suffolk
 Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 3-18-82-818Fed. Reg. Date: 2-1-83Date Due: 4/15/82 - 5/2/82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/15/82

RETURN _____

REJECT _____

photos ☒maps ☒

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

Entered in the
National Register

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. Name2. LocationX 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
☒	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal DescriptionRepresentation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes ____ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
____ excellent	____ deteriorated	____ original site
____ good	____ ruins	____ moved
____ fair	____ unexposed	____ altered

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

for NPS use only

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

Assessing of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT 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: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

**Coronet
Brandy**



the
Sour
Spike

LEAD VEST
REALTY
FOR SALE
OR LEASE
227-0603

YOU ARE ON THE RIGHT ROAD TO THE
WALKINS SHOE

HANDBAGS
SHOES for MEN & WOMEN
SAVE 30-50%

MERRIGAN
The Lighter

EXPRESSWAY
← TO →
BOSTON

TOBIN
BRIDGE
NORTH



Roughan Hall
15-18 City Square, Boston, MA
(Charlestown)
#10F3
View of Park St. facade from SE

MEL GOLDMAN STUDIO
329 NEWBURY ST., BOSTON-536-0530

5716-35



Roughan Hall
15-18 City Square, Boston, MA
(Charlestown)

#20F3

View of City Sq. facade from SW

5715-32

MEL GOLDMAN STUDIO
1929 NEWBURY ST., BOSTON 536-0530



Roughan Hall
15-18 City Square, Boston, MA
(Charlestown)

#3083

View from north of rear elevations

5715-46

MEL GOLDMAN STUDIO
529 NEWBURY ST., BOSTON-536-0539



CONVERSION
SCALES



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	6096
3	9144
4	12192
5	15240
6	18288
7	21336
8	24384
9	27432
10	30480

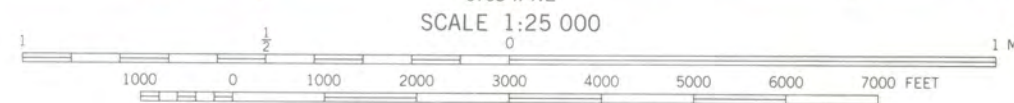
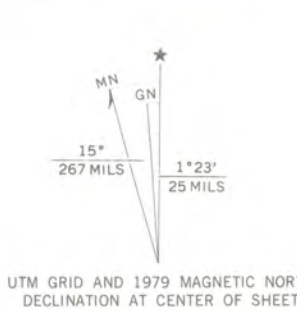
To convert feet to meters
multiply by .3048

To convert meters to feet
multiply by 3.2808

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 USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational
purposes

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1 000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19

Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUM IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE ON MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5

1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 I SE—SERIES V814

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

February 23, 1982

Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Dept. of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

F Boston: Roughan Hall (local)
F Brockton: Curtis Building (local)
Goldthwaite Block (local)
Howard Block (local)
Lyman Block (local)
J Little Red Schoolhouse (local)
J Chatham: Nicherson Homestead (local)
F Gloucester: George O. Stacy House (local)
J Lawrence: Gleason Building (local)
F North Brookfield: Camp Atwater (state)
J Plymouth: Sgt. William Harlow Family Homestead (local)
F Ware: Otis Company Mill #1 (local)

All were voted eligible by the State Review Board at their January 1981 and February 1981 meetings, but the nomination forms have been held at Massachusetts Historic Commission pending the publication of new National Register regulations. In accordance, 36CFR60.6h, of the 11/16/81 National Register regulations, ownership has been verified, and owners have been given at least 30 days to comment on the intent to nominate their properties. All comments are included as part of this submission.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
Candace Jenkins
Registration Director

CJ/amf



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APRIL 15, 1982

Name

Location

First Baptist Church in Newton

Newton
Middlesex County

Roughan Hall

Boston (Charlestown)
Suffolk County

Notified

Honorable Barney Frank
Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
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