

**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 JUN 3 1980

date entered AUG 19 1980

1. Name

historic United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 138-164 Federal Street _____ not for publication

city, town Boston _____ vicinity of congressional district ninth

state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Merideth and Grew, Inc; Herbert W. Vaughn and Thomas Horan

street & number 125 High Street

city, town Boston _____ vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Suffolk County Courthouse

street & number Pemberton Square

city, town Boston _____ state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Assets of the _____ has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no
Commonwealth
date February, 1980 _____ federal ☒ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston _____ state Massachusetts

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 United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building is a twenty-four story Art Deco skyscraper office building located in Boston's financial district. Its use today, as when built, is for offices and ground floor commercial establishments. The immediate area is characterized by a mix of four and five story commercial buildings, 8 to 15 story turn-of-the-century elevator office buildings, and modern, high-rise office towers. It is set on a trapezoidal lot, the sides of which curve slightly with the street lines. The measurements are as follows: High Street - approximately 220 feet; Federal Street - approximately 198 feet; High Street Place - approximately 160 feet; and the side joining the building to 136 Federal Street at a party wall - approximately 123 feet.

The United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building is one of Boston's finest examples of the Art Deco skyscrapers characteristic of that architectural style popular between World War I and World War II. Constructed in 1929 and 1930 by architects Parker, Thomas and Rice of Boston and Baltimore, associate in charge Henry Bailey Alden, contractor George W. Fuller Co. of Beacon Street, Boston, the building incorporates a major list of the elements common to Art Deco style office buildings; ziggurat massing - a series of successively smaller vertical geometric blocks set one on top of the other, ascending dynamically to an ornamented, graduated geometric roofline; vertical window treatment - piers with recessed windows and spandrels moving the eye up continuously with speed; a facade which accents the inner steel structure; textural varieties - brick and stone, stone and metal, brick patterns created with creative coursing; major decorative elements at street level and roofline; standard Art Deco decorative motifs - geometric shapes and lines, stylized flowers, leaves, fruit, fountains, eagles, abstracted nude men and women, and machine parts; and finally theatricality - illustrated primarily in the building's essentially unaltered lobby, with dazzling bronze door and window treatments, gilded ceilings and spectacular suspended frosted glass light fixtures.

The United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building has a complicated ziggurat massing combined with a trapezoidal plan. The building appears to sit directly on a low limestone and black granite platform which serves the ground floor commercial establishments. The rest of the office building is composed of a major central shaft with flanking lateral masses, all sheathed in dark sand colored tapestry brick. The flanking masses rise directly from the platform, are set back at the eleventh and twelfth stories and terminate at the sixteenth floor. On the primary High Street facade, a major light court is created above the platform by the flanking masses. On axis at the Mathews Street party wall, a smaller light court is similarly created.

The central mass is set back at the twenty-first, twenty-third, and twenty-fourth floors. It is capped by a two and a half story penthouse enclosed by a truncated hip roof covered with gold colored terra cotta tiles.

Above the ground floor platform, the elevations are organized with the same fenestration system but with the number of bays differing on each facade. Essentially, each elevation has a symmetrical arrangement consisting of a pier, window spandrel grid configuration flanked by plain corner piers. The grid comprises uniformly sized windows that are separated vertically by and recessed behind brick piers. The windows alternate with brick spandrels, which have decorative bond patterns on the High Street flanking masses.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

AUG 19 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

but otherwise are plain. Subtle emphasis is given to the corners of each mass by the placement of the window-spandrel band in an unornamented brick wall which is chamfered at the corner angle.

The windows are original with a few random exceptions. They are dark brown painted steel sash, double hung, three over three, with the lights divided by mullions. This configuration adds to the building's over-all vertical emphasis. The window sills are limestone. The lintels are a soldier course of brick, except at the top row on some of the set-backs, when the lintels combine with limestone spandrels.

The two lower and larger portions (second through eleventh floors) of the entire mass are nineteen bays across on the Federal Street elevation and eighteen bays across High Street including five bays on each of the flanking masses and eight bays across the light court. The High Street light court in this portion is four bays deep. Along High Street Place there are sixteen bays, and at the rear party wall (parallel to Mathews Street), where the elevation is visible above the eighth floor, there are eight bays including three each for the facades flanking the two bay wide light court which is three bays deep.

The highest portion of each of the flanking masses (twelfth through fifteenth floors) has fifteen bays across the Federal Street elevation, and sixteen bays across High Street including four bays each on the flanking mass and eight bays across the light court, which in this portion is two bays deep. Along High Street Place there are eleven bays, and at the rear elevation, there are eight bays including three bays across each mass flanking the two bay wide light court which in this section is one bay deep.

The central shaft of the United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building from the sixteenth through the twentieth story is nine bays across Federal Street, ten bays across High Street, six bays across High Street Place, and six bays wide on the rear wall. The shaft reduces by two bays on each elevation in the portion from the twenty-first and twenty-second floors; it maintains the same bay count in the set back portion which is the twenty-third floor. The final set back portion, the twenty-fourth floor, also reduces in size by two bays on each elevation.

At each set back, the elevation terminates with a special decorative treatment of the piers and spandrels combined with string courses at the corners and a beveled coping. In hierarchical fashion approaching the summit, the ornamentation becomes more intensified. Light colored limestone is uniformly used to contrast with the sandy brick tone; the limestone provides a visual termination to each mass as well as a subtle horizontal band around the interconnected ziggurat mass.

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There are a variety of patterns used to decorate spandrels, pier "capitals" and limestone string courses on each of the set backs of the building. In each case the patterns are very typical Art Deco motifs, fountains, pineapples, radiant suns, spirals and flowers. Limestone is used decoratively in the upper ziggurat portions. Thick applied pilasters instead of the brick piers alternate with window bands.

The United Shoe Machinery Building is unique among buildings of its age in Boston in having essentially unaltered ground floor store fronts and entrances. The ground floor platform is sheathed in limestone with a two foot high polished black granite watertable. The main entrance to the office building is centered on High Street with another off-center on Federal Street. On High Street, pairs of storefronts of unequal length flank the entrance and each are divided into display windows and shop doors. On Federal Street, the entrance is set near the party wall corner and is flanked with window bays; the remainder of the level contains a long storefront divided into display windows and shop doors. The High Street Place ground floor is undressed and is used as a service alley. Although most shop doors on both major facades have been replaced, the store fronts retain an unaltered character because of their original bronze architraves. This ornamentation encloses the windows and upper fascia and has floral, fruit and abstract zig-zag line decoration on the vertical sections, rising to an abstracted fountain pattern. The decorated bronze rod shaped fixtures attached to either side of each storefront originally were associated with awning mechanisms.

The upper edge of the surround includes the decorative motifs of heads of cattle wearing headdresses (representing leather used in shoe making). Bunting and garlands are strung from the horns of each cattle head to a formal vase of fruit and flowers. The bronze door frames and doors of stores at 48 and 58 High Street are original, with floral, leaf and abstract zig-zag motifs, a transom above and Art Deco style number on the address. The doors are set in from the property line, with tiled entrance way floors from the sidewalk to the door.

The limestone door surround of the High Street entrance is massive and monumental. It rises about four feet above the termination of the first floor limestone facade, up into the light court area. The flat rectangular blocks of limestone forming the surround are carved to represent abstract classical forms of columns, terminating in carved "capitals" with spiral, floral, radiant motifs. Between the "capitals" is a three part spandrel. The middle section is an unornamented octagonal cartouche in relief from the rest of the surface. The two side sections have rectangular relief panels carved with stylized cornucopias. Set back slightly above this spandrel is a dentilated "entablature" with a small central "pediment". Bevelled coping tops this, above which is a rectangular base for a flag pole which rises three stories

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and is topped dramatically with a golden eagle.

The bronze High Street doorway is recessed and fitted with four equal sized doors. The bronze architrave contains figures of stylized nude men, some working with leather and hand tools for shoes. Above these images are the classical figures of two women resting on a piece of shoe machinery, representing the many inventions that brought the shoe industry up from an individual handcraft to the powerful economic success that commissioned this building. Behind the women figures is an intricate, delicate and airy bronze screen that rises approximately six feet to the underside of the limestone lintel. The screen is backed with glass.

The Federal Street first story facade and entrance way is similar to that on High Street, in terms of limestone and granite facade, shop window surround ornamentation and the abstract classical form of the door surround. This door surround is two stories high. The spandrel is more ornate and detailed than on High Street, with a flying griffin motif and dentillated underside. The same men, women and machinery motifs are featured on the Federal Street door surround as on High Street, but the ornamentation is stretched with the addition of twelve glass lights between the door head and the panel of stylized figures. The bronze screen above is similar to that on High Street.

The four outer and inner doors in this entrance have been replaced with bronze colored anodized aluminum doors.

Bronze Art Deco lettering signage announces the 140 Federal Street address on the right hand entrance "column". Similar lettering on the left hand column reading "United Shoe Machinery Corporation" has been removed.

On the ground floor interior, the lobby has an L-shaped plan with entrances from High and Federal Streets. One descends eight steps from the High Street entrance to the main level of the lobby. The walls are greenish gray marble, with a baseboard of polished black granite. The floors are white terrazzo with geometric border patterns inlaid in black. The ceilings have gold painted ornamental moulding and border patterns.

Among the outstanding decorative elements of the lobby are: the entrance foyers, with gold leaf ceilings; intricately ornamented bronze radiator screens; highly polished brass and bronze doors and a light fixture of sandblasted glass and bronze; the ten original bronze elevator doors and casings, exemplary of the extremely fine detailing of Art Deco metalwork, incised with stylized scenes of fountains, flower baskets and birds; and the original bronze elevator monitoring panels.

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Also outstanding are: original signage for bronze door surrounds, doors, and ornamental screens leading to ancillary spaces and shops; original bronze mail chute and box; hanging light fixtures of bronze and white frosted glass. They are mounted to the ceiling by white metal star shaped attachments set in the middle of gold painted ornamental plaster rosettes.

The lobby has recently been restored.

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 1929 **Builder/Architect** Parker, Thomas and Rice

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building possesses integrity of location, design materials and workmanship and significant associations with the consolidation of a major industry in Boston. It was constructed in 1929 as the Boston headquarters of the U.S.M. Corporation, which had been formed in February 1899 to unify the efforts of independent shoe manufacturing companies. As such it represents the corporate growth of Massachusetts industry during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Also it is a major Boston example of the Art Deco style designed by the prominent firm of Parker, Thomas and Rice.

Shoes have been made in Massachusetts since the first settlement period, and their manufacture became an important cottage industry in many towns during the late-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth centuries. During this period shoes were usually made in small shops called "ten-footers". Shoe factories run by middlemen provided the materials for individual artisans to work on, then the finished product was sold back to the middlemen, who in turn sold to a larger market such as Boston. After mid-century, the invention of various types of shoe machinery allowed the establishment of consolidated factories in both the suburbs and Boston. Leatherworking continued as an important trade in Boston until the 1890's when most shoe manufacturers moved to the suburbs and Boston once again became almost solely a trade center. By 1909 approximately one half of the nation's shoe manufacturing establishments were located in Massachusetts and by 1916, Boston was recognized as a leading world trade center.

The success of the Massachusetts shoe industry resulted from the mechanization of the manufacturing process. Some of the labor saving machinery and methods for leatherworking and shoe manufacturing developed in Massachusetts which led to this growth include: the sewing machine, invented in Cambridge by Elias Howe of Spencer, Mass. and further developed in Cambridge by Issac Merit Singer; a machine to sew shoe upper to soles, patented in 1858 by Lyman Blake of South Abington, Mass; the rotary horn, invented by Robert H. Mathies of Massachusetts; the automatic clinching machine, the product of J.M. Estabrook, Milford, Mass; the pegging machine, the work of Benjamin F. Sturtevant of Boston; a nail making machine by D.C. Knowlton and O.R. Chapin of Boston, and the lasting machine, the invention of Jans Ernzt Matzeliger, resident of Lynn, Mass. Scores of other shoe working devices were produced by Massachusetts inventors, all of which changed the shoe industry from a cottage hand industry to an urban and suburban factory manufacturing process.

The rights to the manufacture and distribution of these inventions, by 1899, were primarily in the hands of three shoe machinery companies; the Goodyear Shoe Machinery Company, the Consolidated and McKay Lasting Machine Company and the McKay Shoe Machinery Company. In 1899, Sidney W. Winslow, a native of Brewster, Mass., and a man of broad industrial vision, consolidated these companies to form the United Shoe Machinery Corporation. The purposes

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allen, J. Frederick. The Shoe Industry. Boston: The Vocation Bureau of Boston, 1916.

Associated Industries of Massachusetts. Massachusetts Industry: Progress through Enterprise. Boston, 1965.

10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Boston South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Please refer to the attached map.

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, National Register Coordinator

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date March 1980

street & number 294 Washington Street telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state 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

Potter L. Weslowski 5/27/80

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

date 8/19/80

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*

date 8/19/80

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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1980

DATE ENTERED

AUG 19 1980

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significance ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

of this merger were to avoid confusion and duplication of efforts in shoe machinery manufacture, to halt patent litigation between the companies and to accumulate capital and machinery design expertise in order to improve shoe production means.

The United Shoe Machinery Corporation, under Winslow's direction, grew rapidly to an extremely important position in the shoe machinery industry of the country. Within ten years of its formation, the U.S. M. Corp. controlled 98% of the shoe machinery business in the United States. By the late 1920's it had subsidiary companies throughout the world, in South America, Canada, England, Europe, Scandanavia, South Africa and Australia. Among its board of directors in 1912 were such prominent Bostonians as Louis D. Brandeis, William H. Coolidge, Gordon McKay and James J. Storrow.

Parker, Thomas and Rice, the architectural firm responsible for the design of the United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building, had offices in Boston and Baltimore and were recognized by contemporary critics as being among Boston's most skillfull designers in the nineteenth century. J. Harleston Parker (1873-1930) F.A.I.A., a graduate of Harvard College, studied architecture at M.I.T. and the Ecole des Beaux Arts. On his return to Boston in 1900 he began architectural practice in partnership with Douglas H. Thomas (1872-1915), F.A.I.A., a Johns Hopkins graduate who also trained at M.I.T. and the Ecole des Beaux Arts. In 1907 (after design of the Fenway Studios, NR) Arthur Wallace Rice joined the firm, and it was under the name of Parker, Thomas and Rice that most of their well known commissions were executed. The firm's major Boston works include the R.H. Stearns Company Building (1909-potential NR), the Harvard Club, the Tennis and Raquet Club and the John Hancock Building (1923). The associate in charge of this particular commission was Henry Bailey Alden who had also studied at M.I.T. and was a fairly well known architect in his own right.

- ✓ The United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building is the second of only five Art Deco style buildings constructed in Boston's Central Business District. All reflected
- ✓ passage of a 1928 zoning law relating to set backs and building height limits. It is one of the first buildings in the city over one hundred and fifty-five feet in
- ✓ height and is representative of the impact of regulatory legislation on architectural styles and design. Its major elements include dramatically stepped back massing, geo-
- ✓ metric ornamentation on both exterior and interior, and emphasis on verticality.

- ✓ The United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building is unique among buildings of its age in Boston in having essentially unaltered store fronts and entrances. The decorative details of the doorway and shop windows contribute significantly to the building's

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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2

nature as an Art Deco monument to the industrial power of the United Shoe Machinery Corporation. This building is also unique in retaining an elaborate and essentially unaltered lobby. Outstanding elements include the gold leafed ceiling of the entry, marble walls, intricately ornamented bronze radiator screens, geometric chandeliers of sandblasted glass and bronze, ten original bronze elevator doors and superbly detailed metalwork incised with such Art Deco motifs as stylized scenes of fountains, flower baskets and birds.

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DATE ENTERED.

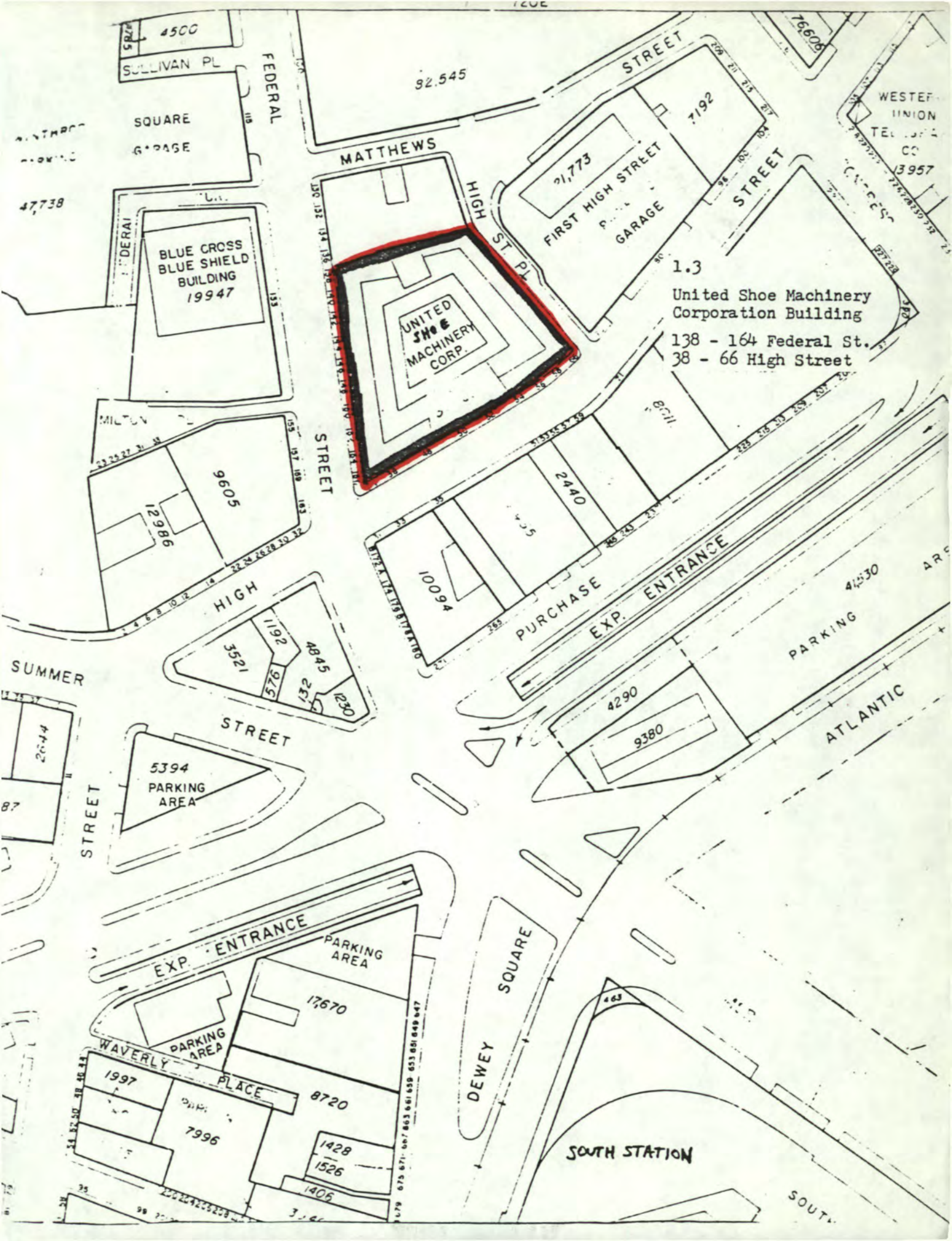
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Deed Records, Suffolk County Courthouse.

Harvard Business School. Case Study on United Shoe Building. Cambridge, Mass.:
Harvard College, 1970.

Ward, David. Economic Geography, "The Industrial Revolution and the Emergence
of Boston's Central Business District." Vol. 42, No. 2, PP. 52-171. Worcester,
Mass.: Clark University, April, 1966.



4500
SULLIVAN PL

SQUARE
GARAGE

47738

BLUE CROSS
BLUE SHIELD
BUILDING
19947

MATTHEWS

92.545

HIGH
ST PL

21,773
FIRST HIGH STREET
GARAGE

7192

STREET

WESTERN
UNION
TELEPHONE
CO
13957

1.3

United Shoe Machinery
Corporation Building

138 - 164 Federal St.
38 - 66 High Street

UNITED
SHOE
MACHINERY
CORP.

STREET

HIGH

STREET

PURCHASE
EXP. ENTRANCE

PARKING

ATLANTIC

5394
PARKING
AREA

EXP. ENTRANCE
PARKING AREA

PARKING
AREA

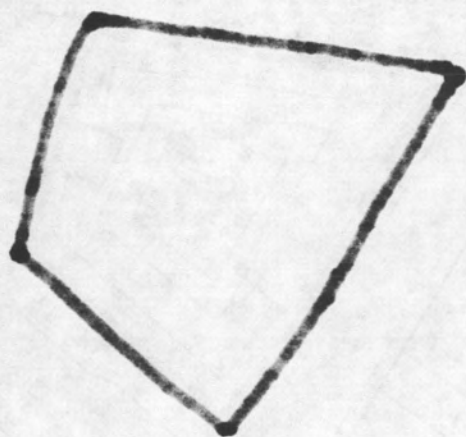
WAVERLY
PLACE

PARKING
AREA

DEWEY
SQUARE

SOUTH STATION

SOUTH



JUN 3 1980

Property

United Shoe Machinery
Corporation Building

ref no 80000668

State

MA, Suffolk

Working Number

6.3.80.1455

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos

Maps

2
1,1

This building is significant both for its architectural quality and because it represents an important trend in American business at the end of the 19th/early 20th cent. - the consolidation of independent, small companies into one large corporation. This bldg., built in 1929, was the corporate H.Q. of a company that controlled 98% of the shoe machinery business in the U.S. Architecturally, the bldg. is a relatively rare example of the Art Deco style in Boston.

HISTORIAN

accept

Patrick Andrews

8/18/80

Intact embodiment of Art Deco high rise design/construction of 1920s, as seen in characteristics of massing & detailing. Evaluated as 1 of Boston's finest examples of the style, + ~~massive~~ ^{only} only 5 built in the central business district. Important for integrity of ground floor detailing, in addition.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
L. Keefe

8/18/80

The significant massing ~~exp~~ expresses the verticality of the period and reflects the impact of the 1920s zoning laws for high rise design.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back _____

Entered AUG 19 1980

Federal Register Entry

2.3.81

Re-submit _____



PAINTS

HARDWARE

WALSH & SONS
General Contractors
1000 W. 10th St. Omaha, Nebraska

United Shoe Machinery Corporation Bldg.
Boston, Mass.

Suffolk Co.

William Finch 1980
Mass. Historical Commission
Boston, Mass.

AUG 19 1980

High Street elevation
facing northwest

AUG 11 1980

Photo #1 of 2



United Shoe Machinery Corporation Bldg.
Boston, Mass.

Suffolk Co.

William Finch 1980
Mass. Historical Commission
Boston, Mass.

AUG 19 1980

High Street Place elevation
facing southwest

Photo #2 of 2

AUG 11 1980



Boston
United Shoe Machinery Corporation
Building
138-164 Federal Street
Boston Landmarks Commission 1977

Photo #1 of 1
View facing east

JUN 3 1980

SUBJECT

DATE

TECHNICAL DATA

→ 1A

→ 2

→ 3A

→ 3

→ 3A

→ 3A

→ 3A

→ 3A

→ 3A

→ 3A

→ 3A



→ 2A

→ 3

→ 3A

→ 3

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→ 16



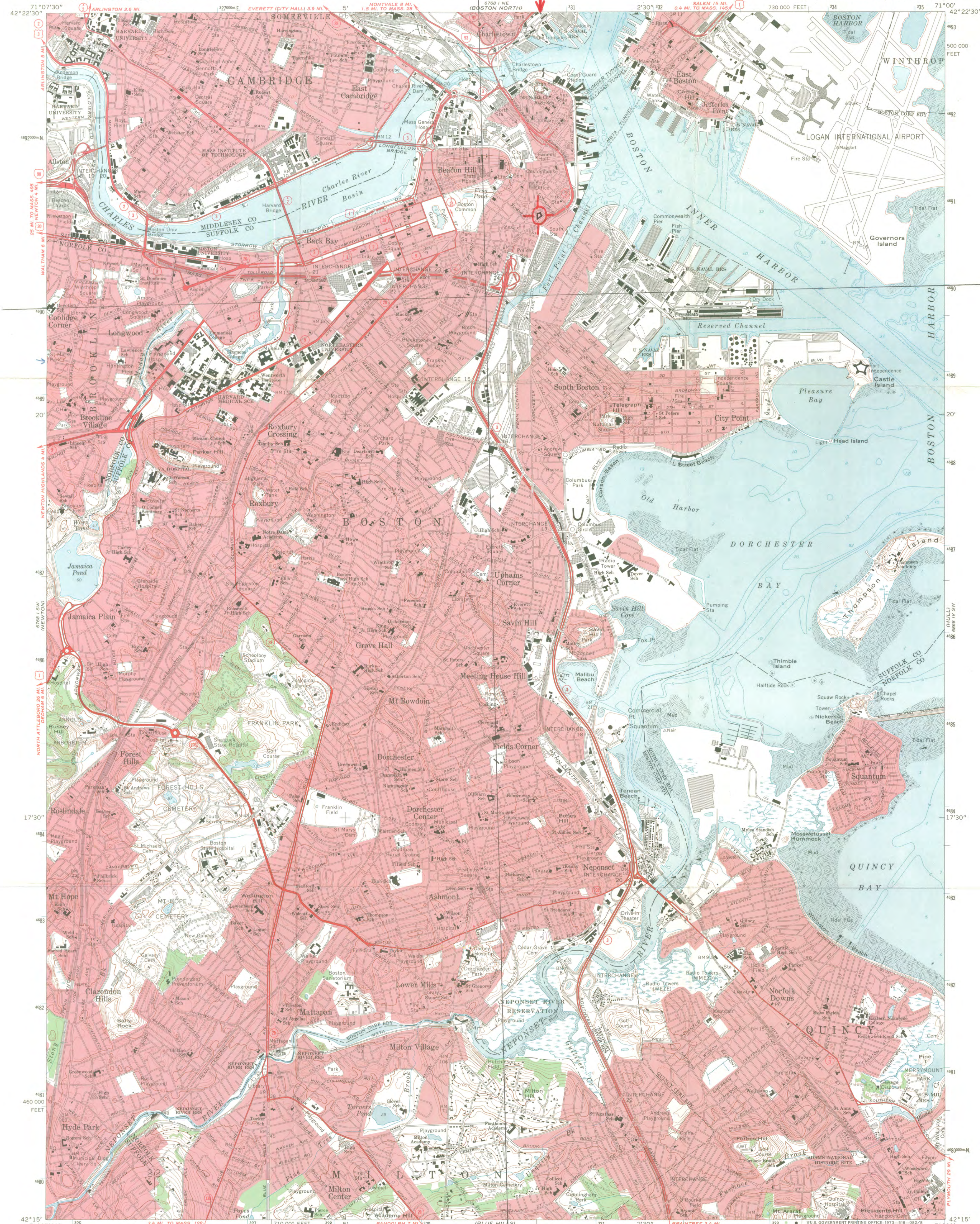
943

JUL 15 1980

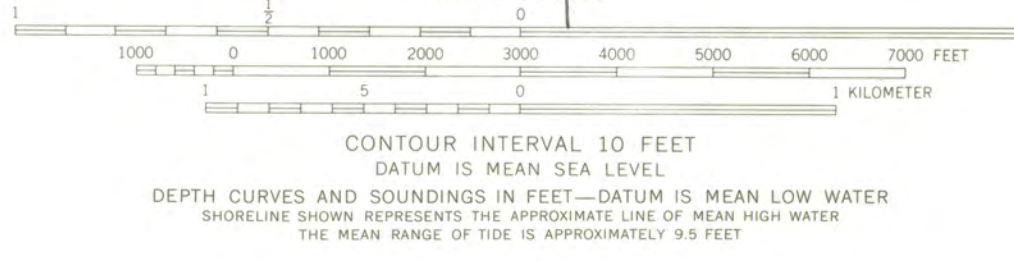
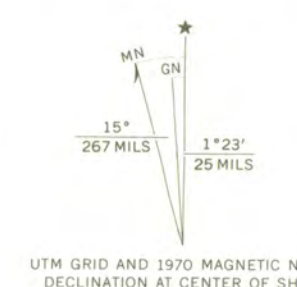
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Boston
United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building
138-164 Federal Street
UTM REFERENCES:
19/330640/4690910
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 USC&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



HALE AND DORR
COUNSELLORS AT LAW
60 STATE STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109

TELEX
94-0472

TELECOPIER
DOMESTIC (617) 367-6133 (617) 742-9108
INTERNATIONAL (617) 367-6180

TELEPHONE
(617) 742-9100
CABLE ADDRESS
HAFIS BSN

April 8, 1980

Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historical Preservation Officer
Mass. Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Weslowski:

Herbert W. Vaughan and Thomas Horan, as trustees of the property known as the United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building ("United Shoe Building") at 140 Federal Street in Boston, submits the following comments in opposition to the nomination of said property for the National Register.

The opposition of the trustees to the National Register nomination of this building derives from the fact that this structure fails to qualify for National Register status under the criteria established in 36 CFR §60.6. To qualify for the National Register, a building must satisfy one of four conditions:

- A. The building must be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

Although the building was constructed to be the headquarters of the United Shoe Machinery Corporation, the design of the building expresses its role as an office building rather than the owner's relationship to the shoe industry. The building never served as a shoe factory, in fact, not a single pair of shoes has ever been manufactured at 140 Federal Street. To maintain, as the Massachusetts Historical Commission does, that a building's services as a corporate headquarters is "associated with an event that has made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history" is to suggest that every headquarter for a major industry qualifies for the National Register. It should be clear, therefore, that any National Register nomination of the United Shoe Building relying upon the building's relationship to the shoe industry would be a spurious

Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historical Preservation Officer
April 8, 1980
Page Two

and ill-founded manipulation of the building's true place in history.

- B. The building must be associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

There has been no serious suggestion that the United Shoe Building is associated with the life of a significant historical personage.

- C. The building must embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or must represent the work of a master, or must possess high artistic values, or must represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

The Art Deco style in Boston never achieved the high development of style associated with Art Deco in other cities. The Art Deco style itself has always been an eclectic artistic compromise between the waning victorian style and the waxing modern architecture. The conservative environs of Boston forced a further compromise in the very essence of the style by presenting a constrained manifestation of a style whose essence is exuberance and lack of restraint. It is not surprising, therefore, that the Art Deco skyscraper, indeed highrise building itself, did not gain great acceptance in Boston until the mid-sixties.

Even in the Boston context, the United Shoe Building is not an exemplary Art Deco building. Unlike famous Art Deco structures such as the Chrysler Building in New York and the Palmolive Building in Chicago, the United Shoe Building does not capture the dramatic theme of movement which epitomizes the style. The building is not even noted as a skyscraper of interest by national and international architectural professionals. Hence, under the criteria establishing eligibility for the National Register, the United Shoe Building does not qualify as a distinctively characteristic structure of its period.

Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historical Preservation Officer
April 8, 1980
Page Three

- D. The building must have yielded, or must be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The United Shoe Building has not yielded, nor is it likely to yield, information significant in our prehistory or history.

It is apparent from the above review of the four criteria relevant to National Register nominations that the United Shoe Building does not qualify for the National Register. This conclusion is buttressed by the other criteria considerations outlined in 36 CFR §60.6.

"Ordinarily * * * properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if * * * they fall within the following categories:

* * * G. A property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance."

Although the United Shoe Building was completed approximately fifty years ago, the building was not considered significant at that time. Aside from being noted as a new skyscraper on the skyline, the United Shoe Building's design when constructed met with neither critical acclaim nor disclaim. If the United Shoe Building has achieved significance at all, that significance has been achieved in the past fifty years. Thus, the standard which must be met before considering the United Shoe Building for National Register nomination is whether the building is of exceptional importance. For all the reasons expressed above, the United Shoe Building fails to meet this exceptional importance standard and the nomination for National Register must be rejected.

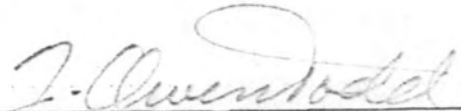
Given the short time period provided for preparation in advance of the National Register nomination hearing, the trustees have not been able to include the various materials which support the statements made above. Given more time, however, it would be pleased to provide whatever further documentation the Nomination

• HALE AND DORR

Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski
State Historical Preservation Officer
April 8, 1980
Page Four

Review Board desires.

Sincerely yours,


J. Owen Todd, Counsel for the
Trustees of 140 Federal Street

JOT:mhf

cc: Mr. Donald C. Moulton



**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

May 19, 1980



Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper
Registration Branch
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
440 G Street NW
Washington, DC 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Boston: United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building (state)
Cambridge: Sacred Heart Church, Rectory, School and Convent (local)
Deerfield: Dedic Site. (state)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Sincerely,

Christine Boulding

Christine Boulding
Survey Director

CB/mt
encls.

30 May 1980

Mr. Elliot Lee Richardson
1100 Crest Lane
McLean, Virginia 22101

Dear Mr. Richardson:

I very much enjoyed our conversation on the plane from Miami to Boston on Monday.

However, I must apologize for my not having recognized you before you were kind enough to introduce yourself! I have long been an ardent admirer of yours, and have seriously hoped that in the next national election you might make the ultimate sacrifice and allow yourself to be considered as a potential nominee for the Presidency. I must add that after our brief anonymous acquaintance, I am convinced that I was absolutely right in having that hope!

Inasmuch as you indicated that you would be interested in following the United Shoe case, I am enclosing a copy of the final report which I presented to the Boston Landmarks Commission. I firmly believe that the wrong decision in this case might have a serious negative effect on preservation efforts throughout the United States.

I am also taking the liberty of sending you some Vizcaya material and hope that when you're next in Miami you may want to pay us a visit.

I hope your journey on the "tall ship" was as exciting as anticipated.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Carl J. Weinhardt, Jr.
Director, Museum Division
Dade County Park & Recreation Department

CJW:mw
Enclosures

To H. Moon
please look at
this, why you
stuff, is then
discuss w/ me.
I must answer.
ETA

OBSERVATIONS ON THE NOMINATION OF THE
UNITED SHOE MACHINERY CORPORATION BUILDING
FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER AND ITS
DESIGNATION AS A LANDMARK BY THE
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION

- I. With reference to the letters from Mr. Owen Todd of Hale and Dorr to Ms. Patricia L. Weslowski of April 8 and May 9, 1980:

National Register Criteria

- A. "The building must be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."

Mr. Todd's statement that the Commission's lengthy history of the development of the shoe manufacturing industry in Massachusetts in *no* way establishes that this building is "associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history" is entirely correct. The building is a respectable commercial office structure of its period which apart from its name, and a few very minor decorative details--"heads of cattle wearing headdresses (representing leather used in shoe making)" and "... stylized made men, some working with leather and hand tools for shoes" and "... classical figures of two women resting on a piece of shoe machinery ...". These insignificant applied details have no particular intrinsic quality and are little more than a polite sop on the part of the designers to their principal corporate patron. With a different assignment and two or three days' work by the designers, the building could just as well have been headquarters for a company that manufactured razors, radios, or radiators.

In short, this large and pedestrian commercial structure is in no way a logical or fitting symbol of the importance of the shoe industry in the history of the Commonwealth. Indeed, one of the early shoe factories which might well have been on the site in the mid-19th century, or the birthplace of Phillips Brooks which *was* once on the site, would have had far more historical significance. (The Brooks plaque should, of course, be preserved and applied to the new building that may be erected there, and another could be added citing the fact that the U.S.M.Corp. Building had once stood there--for whatever that might be worth.)

- B. "The building must embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction, or must represent the work of a master, or must possess high artistic values, or must represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction."

Mr. Todd's refutation of the Commission's position on this criteria is in general equally convincing and valid.

1. "The building must embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, method of construction ..." This clause in itself is so

general as to be virtually meaningless. Almost any large building designed by a large architectural firm for a large corporation will almost inevitably meet this standard. The U.S.M.Corp. Building does indeed embody many of the characteristics of the style which has relatively recently (and probably temporarily) been assigned the name "Art Deco." However, no serious scholar or critic of the style could argue seriously that it does so in an historically significant, original, innovative, or aesthetically satisfactory manner.

The ardent preservationists will, no doubt, try to dismiss the contention of the Stubbins' firm that "squat, massive characteristics of the building constitute an unconscious parody of Art Deco," as coming from a prejudiced source which has a financial interest in the demolition of the building. However, as a reasonably objective architectural historian, I had written *before seeing the Stubbins' report*: "The structure has a stocky, unpleasantly heavy and 'non-soaring' quality due to the overall use of a relatively large site and the height limitations, which completely defeat its would be verticality."

2. ". . . or must represent the work of a master . . ." There can certainly be no serious attempt to justify landmark status on this score. Three quotes from the Commission's own report (section 3.2, p. 17 of 44) go a long way toward laying this hope to rest.
 - a. ". . . no one school or style dominated their work."
 - b. ". . . there have, of course been other architectural firms . . . the volume of whose work has been larger, but it is safe to say that there is none whose work has been more varied" (the Architectural Record, 1913).
 - c. "They worked with facility in a number of architectural styles and vocabularies."
3. ". . . or must possess high artistic values . . ." "Facile" is indeed the word for their work (see "c" above). They pursued no philosophy or style with any genius or conviction, but rather produced numerous reasonably competent essays dictated by the fashions of the moment or the wishes of their clients. If the two happened to coincide so much the better, but the results were never the inspired "work of a master."
4. ". . . or must represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction." The building is indeed a "distinguishable entity" and its components for the most part "lack of individual distinction," but even by the most lenient standards it is not "significant."

- C. "Ordinarily properties that have achieved significance in the past fifty years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such building will qualify if . . ." (they are of) "exceptional importance."

A half century's perspective has enabled us to recognize and define the Art Deco styles and begin to assess its importance. At this point in time it appears to have been an erratic, sometimes brilliant, often diverting but ultimately false attempt to create a complete new language or ornament suitable to the new era with its radically new building techniques, or the "machine age," and "the century of progress."

Its application was often at once ludicrous and whimsical. Perfume flasks became mini soaring skyscrapers, and toasters and tie clasps, neither of which was going very far or very fast, were streamlined. It was short-lived and its beginning and end were neatly defined by the two great wars--I and II. Like its predecessor, Art Nouveau, with which there are certain parallels, it died a natural death. It was a brief, and for our present nostalgia-ridden generations, fascinating chapter in the history of our architecture. Its naive optimism and presumption have great appeal in our more troubled time. It will take much longer to determine whether it will rate more than a passing reference in the grand story of the history of the world's architecture.

Whatever the ultimate judgement may be, the finest works of the period should certainly be preserved. The perspective we now have on the style makes it possible to distinguish the best from the mediocre and amateurish works in a definitive way.

The building has not achieved significance within the past 50 years because it is a poor example of the style, and could in no way be construed as having "exceptional importance." Placing it on the National Register and/or designating it as a landmark will in no way change this fundamental fact, and would be grossly misleading to the general public which deserves to expect that such designations signify that the structure is of true importance in our social history or an aesthetic achievement of real distinction.

II. Other Considerations

- A. The question must immediately be asked, "is this the only large building of the Art Deco style in Boston, and as such, should its preservation be considered *despite* its mediocrity? The answer fortunately is "no". There are at least seven other "Deco Sky-scrappers" in the nearby downtown area. Three of these are I believe of clearly superior quality, and a fourth is of considerable interest for a number of reasons. They are: 75 Federal Street, the Batterymarch (Public Service Building), the Federal Courthouse and Post Office, and possibly the New England Telephone and Telegraph Building. These are all worthy of being carefully considered as candidates for both the National Register and Landmark designation.

It is indeed unfortunate that all the time and efforts now being spent on the U.S.M.Corp. "case", are not being directed to the far more worthy cause of preserving one or all of these buildings. The mere fact that a building is threatened can in no way alter the fundamental facts about it, but I am afraid that it can and often does alter one's perception of those facts.

1. Seventy-five Federal Street in particular is the best case in point because of its proximity, similarity, and clearcut superiority to the U.S.M.Corp. structure. Though 75 Federal is smaller and not as tall, it possesses the soaring verticality in a natural and seeming effortless way, which the ponderous U.S.M.Corp. building failed to achieve. Its overall properties are far finer and it is enhanced externally and internally with rich and inventive decorative elements of extremely high quality. It possesses all of the Deco characteristics which the Landmark Commission's report attributes to the U.S.M.Corp. building, but here is more clearly understood, far better executed and fully realized form. If one forgets the tenuous and unconvincing argument about socio-historic importance, and compares the two buildings on purely architectural grounds, 75 Federal Street would win the contest by acclamation.

Furthermore it has the added advantage of higher visibility from the pedestrian level on three sides of its finer deco details - the elaborate floral stone ornament and large low relief bronze panels above the first floor. The lobby too is more sophisticated and elegant in its decor. The elevator doors are at least worthy of mention in the company of their best counterparts in the great monuments of the style in New York. The ceiling has unfortunately been "modernized" and the original light fixtures removed. This however could be rectified with a proper restoration program. One of the original elevator cabs remains by some happy accident. This is the first on the left (or north-east), as one enters from Franklin Street. The ground plan at the lobby being symmetrical is more satisfactory and suitable to deco principles than the rather ambiguous and unresolved L-shaped plan at the U.S.M.Corp. lobby with its unfortunate change of level - just inside the High Street entrance.

2. The Batterymarch building is also of great interest, and is unusually original and innovative in its expression of the deco vocabulary. The subtle transition of color of the brick from reddish brown at the base through orange to yellow as it ascends to the top is both very unusual and beautiful. The handsome colored terra-cotta ornamental details, which occur frequently in important deco buildings in other cities, are used with particular effectiveness here. The arcaded screens which carry the plane of the street facade across the lower level of the light courts are both unusual and effective. The great "romanesque" brick arched entry though adapted to its "deco" setting may well have been a deliberate reference to Boston's great architectural heritage in general - or even 233 Clarendon Street in particular.

3. The Federal Courthouse and Post Office is a truly monumental stone structure in the style, with a strong and memorable silhouette and skyline. It was designed by a major architectural firm, Cram & Ferguson, and due to its ownership and function will always have an excellent chance of being preserved.
4. The New England Telephone & Telegraph Building designed by the same firm, is of special interest because it is an unusual and major instance of the persistence of the style into the post-war years of 1946-47. The detailing here is more reserved and somber, and though the Commission report refers to it as "Art Modern", it is clearly an important example, in excellent condition of very late deco.

The remaining three though characteristically "Deco" in concept, overall design, and detail are not in the same class as those mentioned above. They are the Western Union Building, the New Suffolk County Courthouse and the Bowdoin Square New England Telephone Bowdoin Square Building. While less important they have the Deco characteristics, and like the U.S.M.Corp. building are interesting as period and study pieces, but not of "Landmark" quality.

- B. Inasmuch as all the blueprints that I have studied date from 1928, and there are drawings dated '27, it is hard to accept the implications in the Commission's report that the building is a monument to corporate imagery which represents the hope "of a disillusioned economic period" or that it aspires "past the traumatic Depression". However I do agree with the Commission's assessment of the merit of the bronze details of the ground floor of the building and would hope that these grills, chandeliers, elevator doors and other elements will be preserved should the building be demolished, be reused creatively in a new structure on this site or elsewhere.

III. Conclusion

In summary, speaking only as a preservationist, I feel strongly that the U.S.M.Corp building should not be placed on the Register or designated as a Landmark. To thus honor a structure, which is of highly questionable historic import and a second or third rate example of the style it represents, would be a serious disservice to the preservation cause, not only in Boston but throughout the nation. The fact that it is a very large economic white elephant is bound to dramatize and intensify the negative results of these actions.

In closing I would like to respectfully urge the commission to exercise its "option of not designating the building as a landmark."

Carl J. Weinhardt, Jr.

Boston, 25 May 1980



6/6/80

Chris

I think this is really,
a potentially very
serious case which
could hurt us all.
If it were worth Nat.
Register status it would
be another story. It isn't!
What is your reaction?
Best as ever. Carl

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

DATE

7/3/80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Candy Jenkins

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

MASS. SH PO office

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

United Shoe Machinery Corporation Bldg - Suffolk County

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Requested more photos - full size outside shots
interior - lobby shots.

8/11/ - photos arrived

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Patricia Andrews



**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

July 10, 1980

Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
Department of the Interior
HCRS, DOI, 434
440 G Street
Washington, DC 20243



Atten: Patrick Andrews

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is a contact sheet of the United Shoe Machinery Corp. Building in Boston. I hope that this additional photographic information will allow your staff to complete their review of this nomination with a favorable result. The views are described below:

- 1-3 South elevation (High Street)
- 4-7 Southeast elevation (High Street)
- 8-9 East elevation
- 10-11 West elevation (Federal Street)
- 12 Entry (Federal Street)
- 13 West elevation
- 14-20 Lobby showing chandeliers, elevators and door surrounds.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins
Evaluation Director

CJ/mt
enc.



**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

July 31, 1980

Carol Shull, Acting Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
D01
W434
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Mrs. Shull:

Enclosed you will find 2 8x10 black and white photos of the United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building in Boston (Suffolk County). I hope that this will allow your staff to complete their review.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Evaluation Director

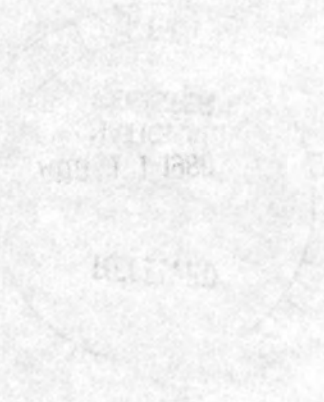
CJ/lk



BIGLEB BOND

Continued

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE RECD	AUG 11 1980
_____ TELEPHONE RESPONSE (ATTACHED)	
_____ WRITTEN MATERIAL SENT	
_____ TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)	
DATE ACTION TAKEN	_____
INITIALS	_____



COMMISSION
HISTORIC
SITES



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

Date Entered **AUG 19 1980**

Name

United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building

Location

**Boston
Suffolk County**

Also Notified

**Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable Paul Tsongas
Honorable John J. Moakley**

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

NR

Byers/mjd

9/2/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

HALE AND DORR
COUNSELLORS AT LAW
60 STATE STREET
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109

TELEX
94-0472

TELECOPIER
DOMESTIC (617) 367-6133 (617) 742-9108
INTERNATIONAL (617) 367-6180

TELEPHONE
(617) 742-9100
CABLE ADDRESS
HAFIS BSN

September 29, 1980

Chris DelaPorte, Director
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
18th & C Streets, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Appeal of National Register Designation
of 140 Federal Street, Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. DelaPorte:

As attorneys for Herbert W. Vaughan and Thomas Horan, Trustees (the "Trustees") of the property known as the United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building ("United Shoe Building") located at 140 Federal Street in Boston, Massachusetts, we are writing to contest your action in designating said building for the National Register.

The Trustees maintain, as they have since the date of nomination, that the United Shoe Building fails to qualify for the National Register under the criteria established by 36 CFR §60.6. The Massachusetts Historical Commission was apprised of this fact but nonetheless nominated the building for the National Register. Your recent designation of the United Shoe Building for the Register apparently also ignores the fact that this building fails to qualify under the legal criteria established by the regulations.

We wish now to appeal what we believe to be your improper designation of the United Shoe Building. In reviewing the appropriate rules and regulations, however, we find no means by which we can assert an appeal. As we would like to avoid an appeal by means of the courts, please advise us of any available and appropriate administrative appeal mechanism through which your designation decision can be reviewed.

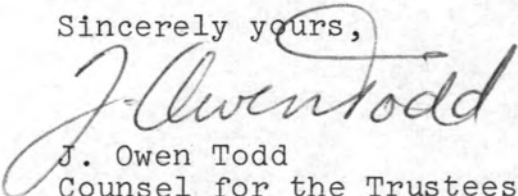
HALE AND DORR

Chris DelaPorte, Director
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
September 29, 1980
Page Two

We are seeking this appeal despite the fact that we received our only notice of designation through a brief mention in the Federal Register and a news item in the Boston Globe. No direct notice of designation has been received by the owners of 140 Federal Street. We are surprised that you would make a designation without notifying the affected owners.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,



J. Owen Todd
Counsel for the Trustees of
140 Federal Street
Boston, Massachusetts

JOT:mhf

cc: Herbert W. Vaughan, Esq.
Mr. Donald C. Moulton

HALE AND DORR

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D **OCT 9 1980**

INDIVIDU _____ (PRINTED)

INFORM _____ (PRINTED)

TELEPH _____ (PRINTED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN _____

INITIALS _____

NOTED BY [illegible]
 DATE [illegible]

NOTED BY [illegible]
 DATE [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Patrick Andrus
12/2/80

436

DEC 2 1980

Mr. J. Owen Todd
Counsel
Hale and Dorr
Counsellors at Law
60 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109

Dear Mr. Todd:

Thank you for your letter of September 29, 1980, concerning the United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 19, 1980.

The method for appealing the listing of properties in the National Register is to apply for a delisting pursuant to 36 CFR 1202.17. Properties can be removed from the National Register only under certain circumstances. As outlined in the enclosed Federal regulations, properties nominated by the States or Federal agencies will be removed from the National Register only when they have ceased to meet the criteria for the National Register: when the qualities which caused them originally to be nominated have been lost or destroyed; upon proof that an error in professional judgment has been made; or, for failure to follow the procedures set forth in the Federal regulations. Information concerning the loss of integrity, error in judgment, or procedural error should be submitted through the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer to the Acting Keeper of the National Register. As you know, the State Historic Preservation Officer for Massachusetts is Mrs. Patricia Weslowski, Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission, 294 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02108.

In addition to reviewing any material sent to the Acting Keeper of the National Register through the State Historic Preservation Officer, we would be happy to meet here in Washington, D.C., with you or your representative, to discuss the decision of the National Register to list the United Shoe Machinery Corporation Building. If you wish to arrange such a meeting please telephone Patrick Andrus of the National Register staff at 202-343-6401, to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. Greenberg (Sgd.)

~~For~~ Jerry L. Rogers
Acting Keeper of the National
Register

Enclosure

cc: Mrs. Patricia Weslowski, SHPO, Massachusetts

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

bcc: NR
FHR:P Andrus:bjr:11/19/80:343-6401

Patrick -
please check
this nomination
re status, these
comments, etc!
get back to
me so we can
get back to
Chris -
Carol