

FORM B - BUILDING

Area <u>C</u>	Form no. <u>170</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Town Reading

Address 24 Gould Street

Historic Name Ace Art Company

Use: Original Factory and Offices

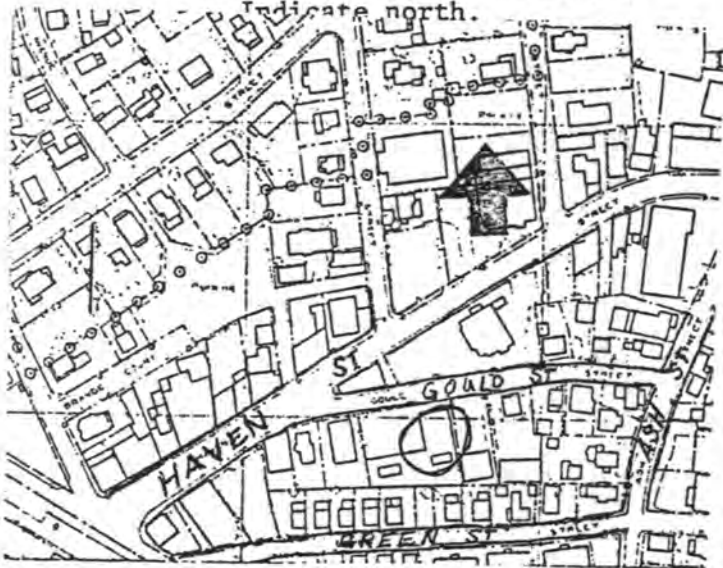
Present Factory and Offices

Ownership:  Private individual  
Private organization \_\_\_\_\_

Public \_\_\_\_\_

Original owner Ace Art Company

location in relation to nearest  
cross streets and other buildings  
or geographical features.  
Indicate north.



DESCRIPTION:

Date 1924

Source Company records

Style Art Deco

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric Brick/Cement

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Additions 1933, 1941, 1966;

Entrance altered, 1966

Moved no Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. acreage approximately 3/4 acre  
(30,770 square feet)

Setting Original building close to  
street, additions to rear arranged  
to make court.

Recorded by Architectural Preservation  
Associates

Organization Reading Historical

Date November 1980

Date 6/82

UTM: 19/327020/4709700

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The architect of this small-scale brick building did not scorn ornament when he designed this Art Deco structure. Multi-colored textured bricks are combined with oversized textured bricks to create a rich pattern emphasized by wide mortar joints. Four buttresses with concrete hoods are decorated with ceramic tiles. A concrete stepped gable serves as a signboard for the Art Deco lettering of the company name. The large windows reinforce the horizontal lines of the building.

This is the only example of the style in Reading.

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

This factory, built in 1924, produced mounting corners for photos invented by Lester S. Riley, who designed a machine to turn this product out in bulk. The machine is protected by patents and has little competition. This product is a good example of Yankee ingenuity creating a solution to a previously unknown need.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Pitkin, Vignettes, p. 44

Interview with company official

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Reading	Form No: C-170
Property Name: 24 Gould St.	

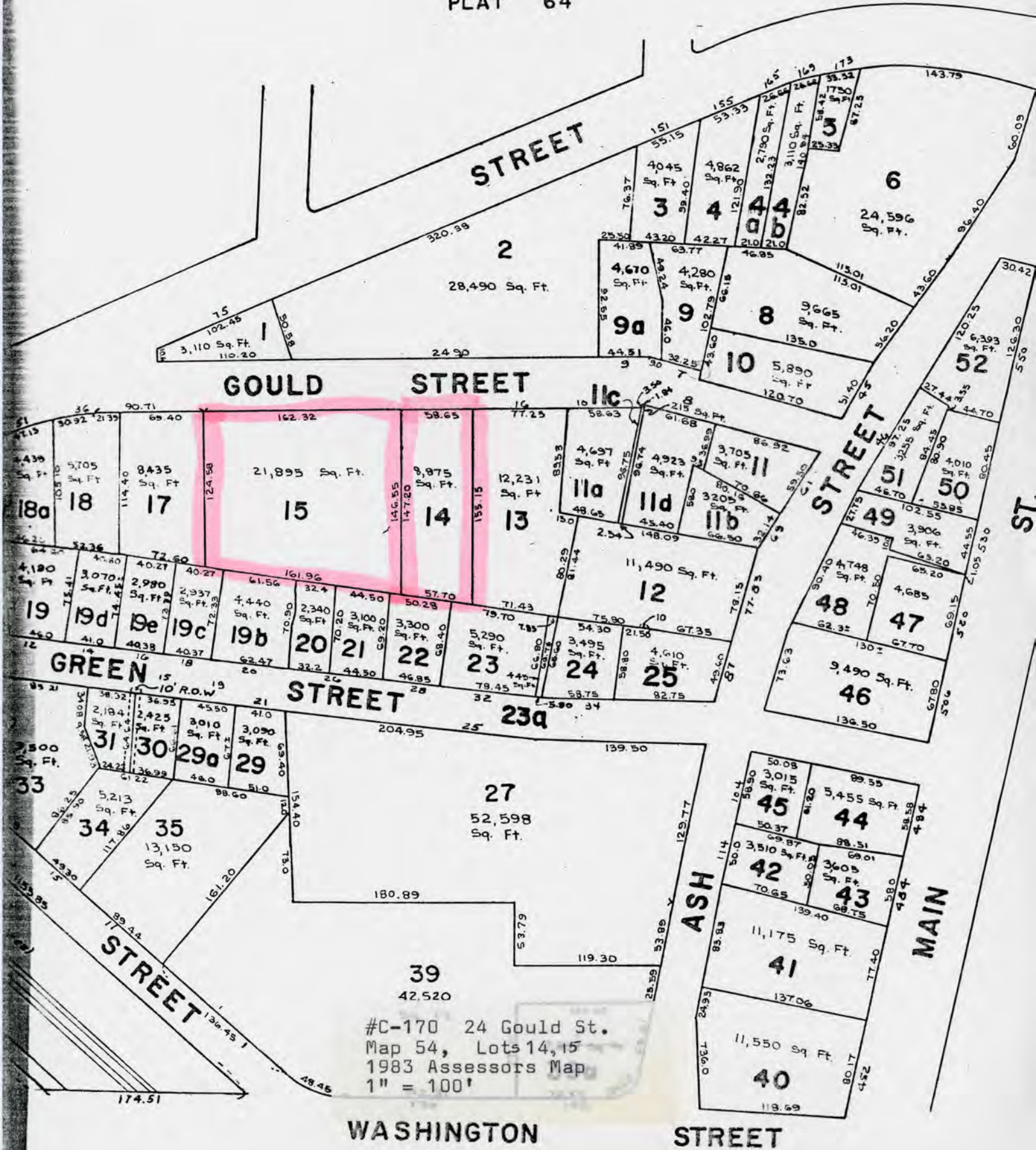
Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Ace Art Company building is significant (1) for its role in manufacturing mounting corners for photographs; (2) for its connection with Lester S. Riley, who invented the corners; (3) as a factory started in 1924 and still operating in its original capacity; and (4) as Reading's only example of Art Deco architecture. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling, and meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

PLAT 64



#C-170 24 Gould St.  
 Map 54, Lots 14, 15  
 1983 Assessors Map  
 1" = 100'

WASHINGTON STREET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ace Art Company (Reading MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. JUN 4 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 7-5-84 / 7-19-84

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 7-19-84

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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

- 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

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



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received 6/19/84  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1 of 9

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Reading Multiple Resource Area  
State MASSACHUSETTS

*Conn* *Paul Douglas* *2/19/84*

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Ace Art Company

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-84*

2. Common Historic District

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-84*

3. Harnden-Browne House

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

4. Haverhill Street Milestone

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-84*

5. Kemp Place

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Delores Byers* *7/19/84*

6. Kemp Barn

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Delores Byers* *7/19/84*

7. Nichols, Jerry, Tavern

Entered in the  
National Register *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Delores Byers* *7/19/84*

8. Reading Standpipe

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

9. Smith Shoe Shop

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-85*

10. Woburn Street Historic  
District

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper  
Attest

*Paul Douglas* *2-1-84*

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Ace Art Company (Reading MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

*Substantive Review*

Working No. 6-4-84  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-86  
Date Due: 2-2-85  
Action:  ACCEPT 2-1-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Statement of Significance  
is weak.*

Recom./Criteria Accept, A, B, C  
Reviewer per [unclear]  
Discipline Architecture and History  
Date 2-1-85  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
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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"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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**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**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

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

UTM 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

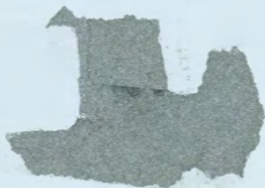
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



7 POLAROID ©

Ace Art Company  
Reading MRA, Ma



Gould St.

M 0 0 9 7 0 1 X

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000290