

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mass.	
COUNTY: Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Old Corner Bookstore

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION Congressional District #9

STREET AND NUMBER:
Northwest corner Washington and School Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Boston

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025 COUNTY: Suffolk CODE: 025



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Historic Boston, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Suffolk Registry of Deeds, Suffolk County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Pemberton Square

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
1. Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
State House

CITY OR TOWN: Boston STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Massachusetts
COUNTY: Suffolk
ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1973
DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

5-30-73

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Corner Bookstore, located on the northwest corner of School and Washington Streets, is a brick house, two and one half stories high plus an attic, covered by a gambrelled roof. On the gable end the fenestration above the first floor is comprised of sash windows arranged in rows of five and three with a single window in the attic. At the ground level, two small-paned projecting show windows are located between the two entrances. Two projecting brick courses, extending almost the width of the wall, run beneath the two storied in the gable. These serve visually to separate the two stories and to define the floor levels. The Washington Street facade is three bays wide. On the first story two projecting windows similar to those on the gable end flank the recessed entrance which is centered on the wall. Three sash windows are evenly spaced on the second story and above them two small dormers peek out of the roof. Brownstone quoining decorates the corners of the building at the second story level.

The three story brick buildings next to the Bookstore on School Street were built in the early 19th century. The structure adjoining the "Old Corner" was erected in 1828, while its neighbor was built somewhat earlier.

The "Old Corner" was restored to its 1828 appearance in 1964. Since then the two School Street buildings have been restored, and the facade of 277 Washington Street will be restored in the near future.

Historic Boston, Incorporated, a non-profit corporation, in 1960 purchased the "Old Corner" and the adjoining buildings with the purpose of demonstrating that historic buildings need not always be museums, but could attract modern tenant occupancy, pay taxes to the city, add value to their surroundings, as well as being tourist attractions. The historical and architectural value of these buildings lies mainly in their exterior appearance.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

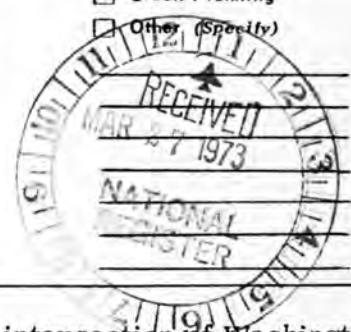
- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1711, 1833

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Corner Bookstore, which stands at the intersection of Washington and School Streets in Boston's central business district, is the only eighteenth century house remaining in this part of the city. As such, it is a valuable neighbor to the Old South Meetinghouse of 1729, a National Historic Landmark. The Old Corner Bookstore served as a dwelling for more than a hundred years before it was converted for use as a bookstore. In the mid-nineteenth century, at the height of its fame, it was the home of the most notable publishing house in America. On that basis the building has been certified as a Massachusetts Historic Landmark.

This brick structure was built soon after the great fire of October 2, 1711, by Thomas Crease, on land owned in the 1630's by William and Anne Hutchinson. An apothecary, "Dr. Crease" kept his shop in the main room of the house and lived in the rooms on the second floor. The building was held by various owners until 1828, when it was leased and remodeled by Timothy Carter. The first floor was converted into a "handsome and convenient bookstore" for the firm of Carter and Hendee, and the upper floors were converted for business use. Carter also built the adjoining structure at 3 School Street, on the site of Dr. Crease's garden, to house his firm's printing presses.

The heyday of the Old Corner as a bookstore and publishing house began in 1833, when the partnership of William D. Ticknor and Company, later Ticknor and Fields, took over the building. A large part of the success of this firm was due to Ticknor's younger partner, James T. Fields, whose innovations greatly altered the traditional relation of authors and publishers. Fields was convinced that there was a large market for fine literature and especially American literature. To insure that his firm got the best of manuscripts, Fields offered American authors royalties, some ranging as high as twenty percent. Instead of pirating the works of English authors, the general practice among American publishers since there was no international copyright protection, Fields either paid English authors a flat sum for their manuscripts or placed them on the same royalty basis as American authors.

By the 1850's, these practices had made Fields the publisher -- and the friend -- of almost every great English and American writer of the time. Among the Englishmen were Tennyson, Dickens, Thackeray, Browning, DeQuincey,

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY-NOMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet: The Old Corner Bookstore, Boston, Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

- [2]. Comprehensive State-wide Historic Preservation Plan
1971
Massachusetts Historical Commission
State House, Boston, MA 025

8. Significance

Matthew Arnold and Leigh Hunt. Fields' American authors were the men whose work proved that American literature had come of age: Hawthorne, Emerson, Thoreau, Longfellow, Holmes, Whittier and Lowell. During these years, the Old Corner Bookstore became such a favorite meeting place for both native and visiting authors that it was popularly known as "Parnassus Corner".

In 1859, Ticknor and Fields bought the Atlantic Monthly, the most literary American periodical of the day. With Fields as its editor, it also became the most famous. By 1864, the firm was ready to increase its interest in periodicals and acquired the North American Review, the oldest magazine in America. After the death of Ticknor in that same year, Fields moved his expanding business from the Old Corner to larger quarters.

Other booksellers and publishers followed Ticknor and Fields at the Old Corner until 1903. After that time the building fell to less distinguished use and gradually deteriorated until it was purchased by a non-profit corporation, Historic Boston, Inc., in 1964. The Old Corner was restored to its 1828 appearance and now serves as the in-town office of the Boston Globe.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tryon, W. S. Parnassus Corner. Boston, 1963.

Whitehill, Walter M. Boston, a Topographical History. Cambridge, 1968.

Final Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission to the Congress of the United States. Boston, 1960.

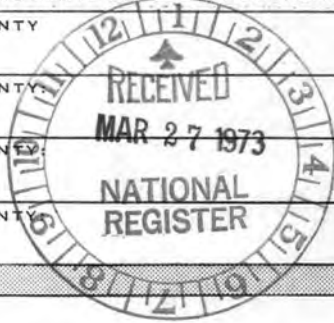
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"
	42	21	27½	71	03	32

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: C. one half

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Anne R. Wardwell, Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE: March 18, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN: Boston

STATE: Massachusetts

CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: John F. X. Danne
Secretary of the Commonwealth,
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission

Date: March 18, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert H. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST:
Wm. M. Nuttall
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4-3-73

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

[Large empty area for the Statement of Significance, containing faint handwritten signatures and illegible text.]

DATE OF RECEIPT 3-10-72 YES NO NUMBER REGISTER: APR 11 1973

5-30-73

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S) _____

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S) _____

MAP (S) _____

MAP DESCRIPTION (S) _____

LOGGED _____

ACKNOWLEDGE 3-17-72 _____



RESUBMIT _____

REVIEW Checked w/ Peter Myers. Restoration is accurate for 1828. Map was sent 12/1/72 1-2-73

HISTORIAN New form sent 3-27-73 Obay, Sarbe 4/13/72

ARCHEOLOGIST _____ accept 3-30-73

ARCHITECT Surely they can get a better copy of a map! Are the adjacent bluffs on School St. included? Is the restoration accurate? (Why do the figures stop in said stream?) Good restoration - bad windows 9-15-72

ASST. KEEPER _____ OK 4/2/73

KEEPER _____ 4/3

WRITER/EDITOR _____ O.R. Rowland 9-13-72

DIRECTOR, OAHP _____

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR _____

Federal Registry Entry 6-5-73 Annual Edition Entry _____

Logged APR 11 1973 Card APR 11 1973

COMMENTS: _____ WORKING NUMBER 3.17.72.393

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: _____

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

- 1. Name. _____
- 2. Location. _____
- 3. Classification. _____
- 4. Owner of Property. _____
- 5. Location of Legal Description. _____
- 6. Representation in Existing Surveys. _____
- 7. Description. _____
- 8. Statement of Significance. _____
- 9. Bibliography. _____
- 10. Geographical Data.
 - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. _____
 - b. Acreage. _____
- 11. Form Prepared By. _____
- 12. Certification. _____
- Photographic Coverage. _____
- Map Coverage. We must have a more legible copy of the map.
- Other. _____

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

SIGNED: [Signature]



ND
RAL
NGS
OL ST

INSUR
SAV

TRUST COMPANY

The Boston Globe

The Boston Globe

DO NOT
ENTER



NPS Number 4/11/73

Title: The Old Corner Bookstore

Loc. Suffolk, Mass.

east and south facades

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

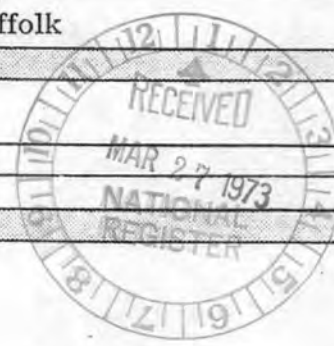
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 11 1973	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: The Old Corner Bookstore			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Northwest corner Washington and School Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 025
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U. S. G. S. Boston, South, Mass.			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1956			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



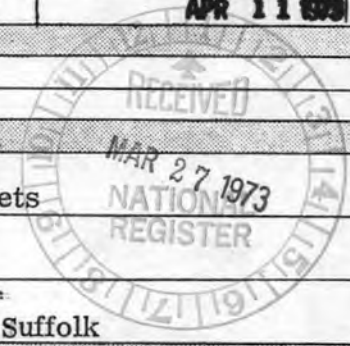
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 11 1973	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: The Old Corner Bookstore			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Northwest corner Washington and School Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Suffolk	CODE 025
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1972			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Massachusetts Historical Commission, Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. east and south facades			



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER APR 11 1973	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: The Old Corner Bookstore

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Northwest corner Washington and School Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Boston

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Suffolk

CODE

025

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. G. S. Boston, South, Mass.

SCALE: 1:24,000

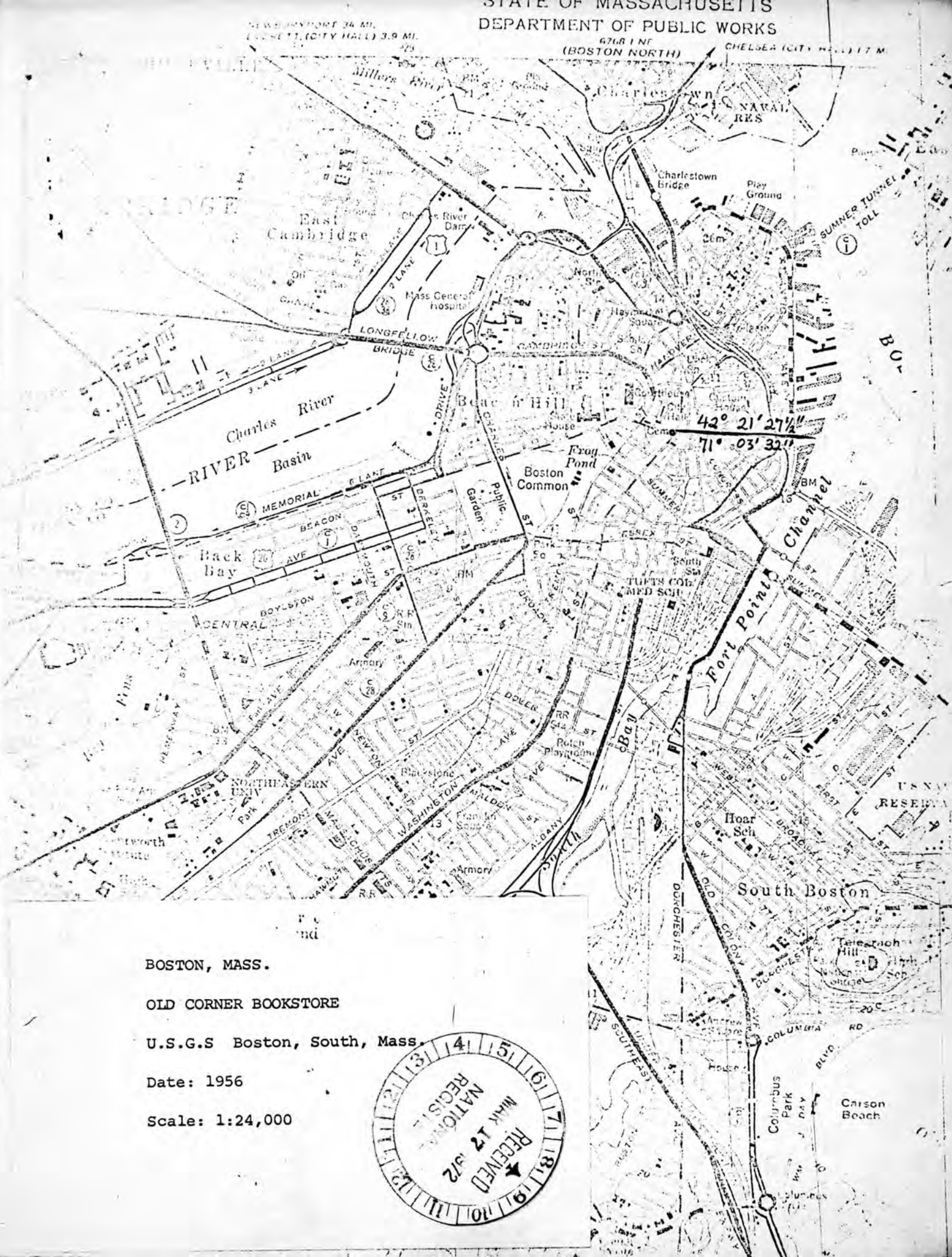
DATE: 1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.





BOSTON, MASS.

OLD CORNER BOOKSTORE

U.S.G.S Boston, South, Mass.

Date: 1956

Scale: 1:24,000



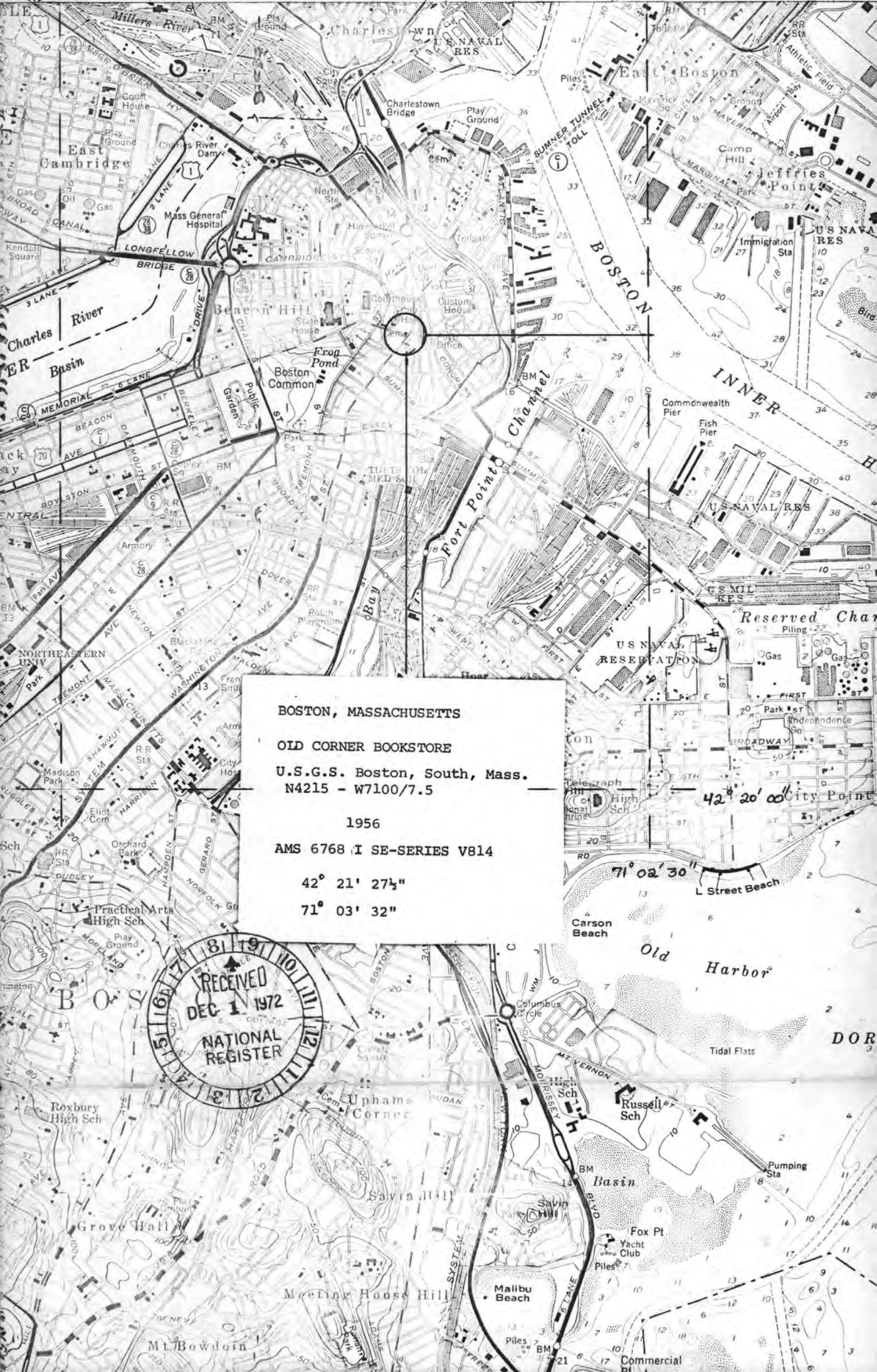
STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

NEWBURYPORT 34 MI.
EVERETT (CITY/HALL) 3.9 MI.
71° 05' 00"

6768 I NE
(BOSTON NORTH)

CHELSEA (CITY HALL) 1.7 MI.
71° 02' 30" 332

6.6 MI. TO U.S. 1



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
OLD CORNER BOOKSTORE
U.S.G.S. Boston, South, Mass.
N4215 - W7100/7.5
1956
AMS 6768 I SE-SERIES V814
42° 21' 27 1/2"
71° 03' 32"





The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth

XXXXXX Street
40 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass. 02108

March 22, 1973



National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Attention: Ms. Carol Shull

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Carol:

Attached is a second copy of our nomination form for:

Suffolk County, Boston, The Old Corner Bookstore.

Mary Means called shortly before she left the Register staff and told us that the last page of our original nomination form had somehow disappeared from your files. She asked that we send her another copy of that page with Secretary Davoren's signature. I am also enclosing a xerox of the materials we originally sent in so you will have a record copy of the full submission.

If any other materials for this nomination turn up missing, please let me know so that we can send you duplicates.

Best regards,

Polly Ann Matherly
Historian
Massachusetts Historical Commission

:pam
Encls.

Page had not disappeared from our files -- they sent a xerox of signature + we requested an original.
JRM 4/2/73

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **MASSACHUSETTS**

APR 11 1973

Date Entered

Name

Location

Boxford Village Historic District

**Boxford
Essex County**

The Old Corner Bookstore

**Boston
Suffolk County**

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy Also Notified

**Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. John Moakley
Director, Northeast Region**

**State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F.X. Devoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108**

(PHR)

NRowland:imp 4-20-73