

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
	16
	82-5

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

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

See attached map

Boston South Quadrangle
UTM References: 19/325040/4689830
Map #: 25

Recorded by Leslie Larkin

Organization Brookline Hist. Comm.

Date January 1979

Town Brookline MRA

Address 314-320A Harvard Street

Historic Name Arcade Building

Use: Present Retail shops, services,
Offices
Original Same

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1926

Source Building permit

Style 20th Century Commercial Gothic

Architect George N. Jacobs

Exterior wall fabric cast stone

Outbuildings none

Major alterations (with dates) several
storefronts were altered, 1927,
1958

Moved No Date N/A

Approx. acreage Less than one acre

Setting The Arcade Building is set
at the core of a dense commercial
center.

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

Unique to Brookline, the Arcade Building is a regional example of an arcaded commercial building. Two stories of shops and offices surround a skylit atrium. Built of cast stone, the structure has a flat roof, accented by Gothic spires and Gothicized piers separating its five bays. A precast concrete frieze tops the building. Second-story fenestration is original, and consists of Chicago-style windows in the outer bays flanking a tripartite fixed-pane window group in the central bay. The building's interior is largely intact.

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

Harvard Street is one of the earliest roads found in Brookline, and it was first known as the Road to the Colleges, and later as the Great Road to Cambridge, crossing the Charles at the Great Bridge (Larz Anderson Bridge). Until the Mill Dam was constructed in 1821, it was the main road from Boston to Cambridge. Charles H. Stearns, Jr., recalled that when he was a boy in the 1840s, the Devotion House (347 Harvard Street) was the only house standing between Beacon Street and the Boston line at Allston. Later, the Griggs, Coolidge, and Babcock farms lined Harvard Street, and they gave way to single-family homes, which in turn gave way to commercial buildings, apartments, and parking lots. Today, only the Devotion House and one other house remain to give an idea of Harvard Street before 1920.

The Arcade Building was built at a time when Coolidge Corner and Harvard Street were taking on much of the appearance they have today, and when the street was rapidly losing its residential character. The owner, Johnson, lived at 60 Longwood Avenue and had a real estate office at 31 State Street, Boston--he must be considered one of the developers of the area. This is the only building of its type in Brookline, but its prototype is probably the bazaar of the Middle East. A famous example is the Galleria of Milan, and closer to home, the Arcade Building in Providence, an 1827 Greek Revival granite building. The style has become popular again, with recently built examples such as the

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

Brookline Atlases, 1919, 1927, 1978
Brookline Building Department permits
Brookline Directory, 1926
Boston Directory, 1926
Martin Kineman, Brookline Village, 1865 to 1902, Brookline Historical Society, 1903

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

BROOKLINE

Form No:

16
82-5

Property Name:

Arcade Building

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

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued

Galleria in Cambridge and the Chestnut Hill Mall. There was an earlier building in Brookline Village called The Arcade, but apparently it was a small wooden tailor shop, and not an arcade at all.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The Arcade Building meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places, being an important later example of commercial development at Coolidge Corner, one of Brookline's two major commercial areas, and being a unique regional example of an arcaded commercial building with much of its interior intact.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9-4-85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Brookline MRA
State Norfolk County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Sevenels

Substantive Review Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

2. Stoddard, Bela, House

Substantive Review Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

3. United Parish—Harvard
Church

Substantive Review Keeper

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

4. Anderson, Larz, Park
Historic District

Substantive Review Keeper

Attest

5. Arcade Building

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

6. Beacon Street Historic
District

(add. info. accepted 1-24-86)

Substantive Review Keeper

Attest

7. Beaconsfield Terraces
Historic District

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

8. Bowditch, William Ingersoll,
House

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

9. Brandegee Estate

Substantive Review Keeper

Attest

10. Building
(30--34 Station St.)

Entered in the
National Register

Attest

Cover 10-17-85

Date/Signature

5

10-17-85

10/17/85

10/17/85

10/17/85

10/17/85

10/17/85

10/17/85

10/17/85

10/17/85



*Uniformly
Yours!*

copy
center

ARCADE BUILDING

Eagerman's BAKER
SURPLUS

ANTIQUES
CUSTOM PICTURE FRAMING

Arcade Building

314 - 320 A Harvard
Brookline (MA) MRA

JAN. 1979

Prestige Prints

by Berkey

JAN. 1979

Prestige Prints

BROOKLINE (MA) NRA
ARCADE BUILDING
314-320A Harvard St

1/2" = 200 ft. TOWN OF BROOKLINE MAP JAN 81

