

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 6 1984

date entered JAN 3 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bellingham Square

and or common Bellingham Square Historic District

2. Location

Roughly bounded by

Portions of Broadway, Chester, Chestnut, City Hall Ave.,
street & number Fifth, Fourth, Grove, Hawthorn, Marlboro, Shawmut, not for publication
Shurtleff and Washington Streets.

city, town Chelsea vicinity of N/A

state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple/See attached owner/property list

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number One Pemberton Square

city, town Boston state Ma 02108

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state MA

7. Description

Bellingham Square Historic District, Chelsea, MA

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the center of Chelsea, a small city just north of Boston, Bellingham Square is a district composed primarily of civic and commercial buildings built following a major fire in the early 20th century and situated along the city's principal east/west axis--Broadway. The district also contains residential buildings constructed during this same period and located on the less major streets that radiate from Broadway. The irregularly shaped district consists of 127 properties, including a monument and street clock, and encompasses nearly thirty acres. Eleven buildings are considered intrusions within the nominated area due either to irreversible alterations or their recent date of construction. All major buildings within the district were constructed within a twenty-year span following the Great Fire of 1908, which razed all but one existing structure and a Civil War monument.

Reconstruction after the fire occurred along the extant 19th century street pattern. The district's commercial structures were built along Broadway, the main axis leading from the industrial waterfront to the major public buildings in Bellingham Square. This principal route is surrounded by secondary streets that remain densely developed with working class housing. All buildings in the district are situated on the property line, abutting sidewalks, and have little or no landscaping. Open space is limited to that which surrounds public buildings. Most structures were designed using the full dimensions of the property boundaries so that irregularities in building shape grew out of the nineteenth century erratic street patterns forming the land parcels.

The results of the rapid redevelopment following the 1908 Fire include all of Chelsea's major public buildings, the multiple-story commercial buildings on Broadway between Chelsea Square and Bellingham Square, and the residential bowfronts and larger multiple-story apartment blocks on surrounding streets. Because of its homogeneity of building materials, styles, craftsmanship, and historical context, the district is sharply distinguished from the surrounding neighborhoods. All structures are made of brick with stone, cast concrete, and metal ornamentation, and all utilize Classical Revival designs. Regularity of scale, massing, design and building fabric creates a cohesive streetscape. Interest and variety are achieved with the use of varying architectural details derived from the vocabulary of classical styles. Building plans vary from the basic rectangular block to projecting bowfronts and U-shaped structures. The residential and commercial buildings are vernacular in quality of design, whereas the major public buildings, in varying Classical Revival styles and designed by prominent Boston architects, reflect more sophisticated architectural interpretations.

Although construction in Bellingham Square occurred within a short timespan, two distinct periods of development can be seen in the designs of the buildings. The first group is composed of Georgian Revival-style buildings.

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This group includes nearly all the residential and commercial buildings constructed from 1908 to 1912. These are characterized by three- and four-story brick construction with heavy modillioned cornices, projecting metal-clad bays, or single or double bowfronts. Windows are elaborated with splayed keystone lintels. The second group of buildings, consisting of commercial and civic buildings built after 1911, employs the Neo-Classical style. The classical ornamentation is unsculptured and applied to facades, friezes and parapets. Often a light-colored building material of stone or yellow brick is used.

A description of the district's representative buildings follows. They are categorized by use and are discussed beginning with civic and religious buildings and followed by commercial and residential structures.

Centrally located on a prominent site adjacent to the library, City Hall (Map #33, photo #1) was designed by Peabody and Stearns in 1908. The building is a fine example of the Georgian Revival style, consisting of a 2 1/2-story main brick block flanked by connecting one-story wings. Gray terracotta ornamentation decorates the slightly projecting central bay. The gilt-domed tower emerging from the central bay surmounts the hipped roof and is the dominant feature in many views of Chelsea. Classical ornamentation includes splayed keystone lintels, decorative ornamentation framing the entryway, a heavy modillioned cornice, and balustrades on the hipped roofs of the connecting wings.

The Chelsea Public Library (Map #27), constructed in 1910, is a Beaux Arts-style building. It was designed by Guy Lowell, the architect for many well-known Boston buildings including the Museum of Fine Arts, Simmons College and Emerson Hall at Harvard. The use of light-colored brick with terracotta trim to embellish the corner pilasters framing the entryway, the monumental steps, and the advancing and receding planes all add variety and interest to the streetscape, yet unity is achieved in the scale and craftsmanship of materials.

The Post Office (Map #23, Photo #3), at 175 Hawthorn St., was designed by Federal supervising architect James Knox Taylor. Classical Revival in style, it is consistent with the surrounds in scale, massing and use of materials, but it adds particular variety to Bellingham Square with the use of Spanish Colonial Revival-style elements: red tile roof, arcading fenestration and the elaborate tile and brick frieze.

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument (Map #910, Photo #1) consists of a granite base and column topped with a bronze statue. It is the only complete structure predating the 1908 Fire. The monument, a Civil War memorial, was located in Union Park from 1869 to 1911, when it was moved to its present location in front of City Hall.

The large Gothic Revival Catholic Church, St. Rose (Map #31) was the only building in the district to survive the fire, if only partially. The 1869

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design by Patrick Keeley, well known for his designs of Roman Catholic churches, was reworked in 1908 by Edward J.P. Graham, another well-known architect of Catholic churches. He replaced a lancet window over the central entryway with a rosette window; otherwise, the lancet windows with brick and stone hood surrounds, the alternating lancet windows and buttresses on the side walls, and the arcaded brick corbelling are all part of the 1866 Gothic design. The other two church buildings in the area were constructed in the Gothic tradition. The Mt. Bellingham Methodist-Episcopal Church (Map #77), 28 Bellingham St., is of random rubble construction with a southwest buttressed corner tower. The cut-stone masonry building of the First Baptist Church (Map #76), at 185 Shurtleff, is asymmetrical with a projecting side entrance tower, chancel and transepts.

The Chelsea Free Hebrew School (Map #39), 48 Washington Ave., was constructed in 1923 using local Jewish architect Samuel S. Eisenberg's design. The large, two-story, red brick building of Neo-Classical design conforms to conventional school plans used in the Boston area. The use of religious symbols for ornamentation articulates the function of the building and its construction reflects the importance of the large Jewish population in the city.

The Young Men's Christian Association (Map #78), constructed in 1919 to designs of William Atherton, is an excellent example of Georgian Revival architecture. Among the building's notable architectural details are tall arcaded round-head windows on the first floor, a string course separating the first and second floors, and a heavy modillioned cornice. These bold and unreserved elements give a sense of solidity and importance to the building.

The commercial buildings on Broadway are predominately Georgian Revival and Neo-Classical in style. The Masonic Temple (Map #8, Photo #6), built in 1911 at 311 Broadway, is an outstanding example of a Neo-Classical temple facade laid over a modest commercial three-story building. In quality of design, the building can be compared favorably to the major public buildings and stands in contrast to the more modest design of other commercial buildings in the area.

The two large three-story Georgian Revival commercial buildings at 413-421 Broadway (Map #20) are nearly identical in appearance and were designed by the same architect. They were both owned by members of the Wentworth family, who were major real-estate investors in the community. Differentiated only by the color of brick used in their construction, these two buildings are notable for their rusticated brick quoins, dentillated cornices separating the store fronts from the upper levels, and the tripartite, segmental arched windows on their second stories.

Salvador DeDomenico, owner of the DeDomenico Building (Map #56), 466 Broadway, and the S. DeDomenico Building (Map #44, Photo #2), 478 Broadway, used the same architect, Daniel Woodbury, and builder, the Guidera Construction Co., to

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construct both of these large three-story corner buildings in 1908. Although both are of Neo-Classical Revival design, the building at 466-472 Broadway is more restrained in its ornamentation. The structure at 478 Broadway, however, is highly embellished with stone pilasters, crests, keystones, and a large pedimented window on its facade.

The use of metal-clad bays to create variety in design and texture is seen on the commercial/residential building at 28-40 Washington Avenue (Map #40) in Bellingham Square. Again, the scale and massing of the three-story U-shaped structure are similar to other buildings. Variety is achieved in the building's details, which include rusticated brick coursing and a heavy cornice wrapping around the entire building, which articulates the projecting bays.

The district's residential neighborhoods are urban in character and contain three general types of buildings. The bowfront row houses along Grove Street (Map #100-106, Photo #5) are characteristic of one form. They are made of red or yellow brick standing on raised basements, with stone lintels, arched entryways, and elaborate modillioned cornices with dentil and egg-and-dart decorations. Bowfronts on Shurtleff and Marlboro Streets resemble the Grove Street buildings with some variations, such as the use of octagonal projecting bays.

The second group of structures are large, three- and four-story apartment buildings, which often wrap around street corners. Examples of this form are the 1912 designs of Samuel S. Levy at 27-31 Chester Street (Map #90) and 133-139 Shawmut Street (Map #91). These large brick buildings, although not highly detailed, do exhibit Georgian Revival-style ornamentation surrounding entries and windows. Other structures of this type are at 112-116 Hawthorne Street (Map #67) and 178 Pearl Street (Map #66) and are distinguished by metal-clad projecting bays that extend from the second to third story.

The final group of residential structures consists of detached single-family homes, of which there are only a handful in the district. The best example, built originally for the Chelsea Day Nursery, is at 148 Shawmut (Map #940). Georgian Revival-style cornice, dormers, and unadorned columns supporting a projecting portico elaborate the 2 1/2-story brick block.

Buildings in the district are generally in fair to good condition; public structures are generally in the best repair.

Recent rehabilitation has greatly enhanced the area. Examples of this activity can be seen at 28-40 Washington Avenue and in the exterior preservation work at 112-116 Hawthorn and 151-153 Shurtleff Streets, which has been completed with sensitivity to the architectural integrity of the buildings and their settings. There are no completely vacant buildings in the

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Bellingham Square area, although several structures just beyond the district's boundaries have suffered from arson and vandalism, a potential danger to many of the underutilized buildings in the district. Two of the eight wooden structures have suffered the application of aluminum or vinyl siding.

Intrusions

The cohesive Bellingham Square district of over 120 structures has only eleven intrusions. Four of these, built after 1930, are intrusions due to their recent date of construction. These include the Broadway National Bank, 449-461 Broadway (1969), and 153 Hawthorn, which is a one-story supermarket built in 1946 of yellow brick with Art Deco elaboration. The low one-story American Legion Post at 215 Shurtleff, although reminiscent of Colonial Revival architecture, is also of a later period and of a different scale than surrounding buildings. The 1958 New England Telephone Company at 1 City Hall Avenue replaced the enormous castellated armory that had covered the entire lot adjacent to City Hall, the area's greatest architectural loss.

Four early twentieth century buildings considered noncontributing structures to the district are: 331 Broadway, due to its major facade alterations and demolition of the third story; 22 Washington Avenue, due to lack of conformity of scale with multiple-story buildings in the area; 14 Fourth Street, due to major facade alterations; and 24 Grove Street, due to dissimilar scale, building fabric and fenestration alterations.

Three parcels on Hawthorn Street were not developed until the 1930s, at which time improvements included brick and concrete filling stations without historical and architectural affinity with the surrounding area. One of these, 156-158 Hawthorn, is now a vacant lot. The other two, 148 and 130-146 Hawthorn, retain the filling stations, which have been dramatically altered since 1930.

Archaeological Considerations

The level of urbanization in the densely built residential and commercial district obliterates archaeological remains. The early twentieth century building construction and the 1908 Fire destroyed prehistoric resources.

8. Significance

Bellingham Square Historic District, Chelsea, MA

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) ethnic history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		
Specific dates	1908–1929	Builder/Architect	multiple	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The public, commercial and residential buildings of the Bellingham Square district are characteristic of the growth of an early twentieth century commercial and civic urban center. Developed within a short period of time, the area reflects a strong degree of architectural homogeneity, possessing integrity of design through similar scale, massing and setting. Historically, the district is significant for its early use of city planning concepts, which controlled construction after the 1908 Fire. The district is also important for its association in the early 20th century with a tightly knit ethnic community created by the large proportion of Jewish property owners and immigrants. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship, Bellingham Square Historic District meets Criteria A, B, and C of the National Register of Historic Places and is important at the local level.

Chelsea was settled in 1624 and annexed to Boston in 1635. Surrounded by water, the area remained virtually unpopulated for the first century of annexation because of its geographic isolation from Boston. In 1739, the town of Chelsea was incorporated. Growth increased rapidly during the nineteenth century due to improved accessibility. By 1857, the population reached 12,000 and Chelsea was chartered as a city.

The rapid expansion of industries and the enormous population increase resulting from the influx of immigrant workers changed the character of the city in the late 19th century from a residential community to an urban environment. Prior to 1890, immigrants were predominately Catholics from Ireland and Poland. In contrast, the decades at the turn of the twentieth century were a time of influx of Jews from Russia and Eastern Europe. The dramatic increase from 82 Jews in 1890 to 11,225, nearly one third of the Chelsea population, in 1910 would account for the large number of Jews involved in the redevelopment of Chelsea after the 1908 Fire.

The major historical event that altered the nature of the Bellingham Square area was the Great Fire, which began on Palm Sunday, April 12, 1908, and razed nearly 3,000 structures on 500 acres of land in the center of the city. Prime commercial property near the geographic heart of the city was now available for new construction and rapidly became the civic and commercial center of Chelsea once again. The area was surrounded by moderately priced housing. Immediately following the Fire, the mayoral and aldermanic system of government was replaced by the Board of Control. Acting Massachusetts Governor Eban Draper appointed the five-member Board which, under the supervision of Chelsea resident Edward McClintock, brought professional city planning concepts to Chelsea. McClintock had previously been chairman of the Massachusetts Highway Commissioners and had helped develop the bituminous type of highways for national use. Under his leadership, the Board of Control adopted a major city ordinance titled Ordinances, Charters and Special Laws.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 28 acres

Quadrangle name Boston North

Quadrangle scale 1:25000

UTM References

A

1	9	3	3	2	8	3	10	4	6	9	5	3	8	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	9	3	3	2	8	0	10	4	6	9	5	1	4	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	9	3	3	2	6	5	10	4	6	9	4	9	6	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	9	3	3	2	4	3	10	4	6	9	4	9	4	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	9	3	3	2	4	3	10	4	6	9	4	9	4	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

1	9	3	3	2	4	8	10	4	6	9	5	1	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

1	9	3	3	2	4	2	10	4	6	9	5	3	0	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

1	9	3	3	2	5	6	10	4	6	9	5	4	1	10
Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Attached Sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Kubie, Preservation Planner with Gretchen G. Schuler, Chelsea Office Of Community Development

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date September, 1984

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

city or town Boston state Massachusetts

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Valerie A. Talmage

title State Historic Preservation Officer Massachusetts Historical Commission date November 16, 1984

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

for Melores Byers Entered in the National Register date 1-3-85
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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This document created zoning and building codes as well as building permit procedures and fire limits that prohibited wooden buildings within specified boundaries. The Board of Control also determined the location of new public buildings. They chose Bellingham Square at Washington Avenue and Broadway as the site of the new City Hall and oversaw the reconstruction of the Library and Armory on their original sites.

The placement of prominent public buildings forming the center and periphery of Bellingham Square was important in the reestablishment of the public's image of the new civic and commercial center. The well-known architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns designed City Hall (Map #33, Photo #1), recalling Independence Hall in design and creating an important civic focal point for the citizens of the city. The building was detailed in the Georgian Revival style, a style that would be repeated throughout the redevelopment of the Bellingham Square area.

The construction of the Chelsea Public Library (Map #27) and the Post Office (Map #23, Photo #3) drew national attention to the small city. The new Library, designed by Guy Lowell, was made possible through the generous gift of nationally known benefactor Andrew Carnegie. President William Howard Taft attended and addressed the dedication of the Post Office designed in the Classical Revival style with Spanish Colonial elements. Both structures are consistent in scale, massing and use of materials with other Bellingham Square buildings.

Facing the rear entrance of City Hall, the Chelsea Free Hebrew School (Map #39), built in 1923, was one of the last buildings to be constructed in the area. This Neo-Classical style structure was designed by architect and Chelsea resident Samuel Eisenberg. The presence of the school reflected the large Jewish population and the active role this group played in the rebirth of Chelsea.

The planned construction of major civic buildings under the direction of the Board of Control quickly led to private development of commercial space on Broadway and residential properties on the less major streets by previous owners and by speculators. Many of the speculators were immigrants who, collaborating with others, combined their knowledge of building and business skills to redevelop Chelsea. Two men who worked successfully in such a partnership were Philip Glow and Morris Wolf. Together they built over a dozen residential buildings on Shurtleff and Grove Streets.

Commercial buildings along Broadway were quickly constructed in Georgian and Classical Revival styles. The rapid construction of numerous multiple story brick blocks of vernacular interpretation demonstrated the important contribution of Chelsea residents to the revitalization process. The

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cohesiveness of Bellingham Square is particularly enhanced by the DeDomenico Buildings at 466-472 and 478 Broadway (Map #56 and #44; Photo #2). The use of classical embellishments on these brick blocks was representative of popular architectural trends and contributed variety to the streetscape.

The Executive Building (Map #14), the largest structure in the area, covers more than one half acre of land and was built in 1916 as a response to the need for additional commercial and business space. The building's unsculptured Classical Revival ornamentation blends well with the earlier Georgian Revival structures surrounding it. The involvement of owner Isadore Wintman and architect Samuel Eisenberg reiterates the role Jewish citizens played in Chelsea's revitalization.

Because of the influx of immigrants in need of housing and the vast displacement of tenants due to the Fire, residential construction also occurred rapidly. A number of small-scale apartment buildings were built to meet this need. Examples of this form of development are four properties on Shurtleff Street (Map #80-82; Photo #4). Designed by Samuel Levy between 1910 and 1912, they are 3-story, modestly detailed Georgian Revival-style buildings that were owned by Jewish immigrants and designed by a Jewish architect. Again, the important role of Jews in the redevelopment of the Bellingham Square District is articulated.

Larger apartment blocks were also constructed, filling the need for large-scale housing that was moderate in cost. One example is the Georgian Revival-style Central Building (Map #26; Photo #4) located at the prominent corner of Shurtleff and Broadway. Others are the curved brick buildings at 133-139 Shawmut (Map #91) and 127-133 Chester Streets (Map #90) and those with elaborate projecting bays at 178 Pearl (Map #66) and 112-116 Hawthorn Streets (Map #67) which were designed by Samuel Levy, owned by real estate investors and designed in the Georgian Revival tradition. All four buildings are focal points and highly visible properties reflecting the character of the surrounding area.

Although the majority of the buildings were products of local architects, the principal public structures were designed by well-known Boston architectural firms. The choice of Peabody and Stearns as architects for the City Hall (Map #33; Photo #1) was particularly significant, since the quality of the City Hall's design set the tone for subsequent building in the district. Other prominent Boston architects responsible for construction in the nominated area included Guy Lowell and Henry Bacon. Lowell designed the library in the Beaux Arts tradition. It is reminiscent of other buildings he designed including the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire. Bacon designed several monuments in Boston, but is best known for his design of the

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Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., completed in 1917. In Chelsea, he designed the elaborate Renaissance Revival Chelsea Savings Bank which has recently lost its integrity with the addition of a marbled sheathing.

Generally, church buildings in the district were the work of prominent ecclesiastical architects who built in the Gothic Revival style. St. Rose Church (Map #31) was designed in 1866 by Patrick Keeley, the leading Roman Catholic architect of the late 19th century. The building was only partially damaged in the 1908 Fire. After the Fire, Edward J.P. Graham, a prominent Catholic architect with a long list of commissions, reworked Keeley's design to produce today's church building. Designed in 1909 by George Newton, the First Baptist Church (Map #76) is another religious building conceived by a widely known Boston architect.

The majority of the buildings in the district, however, were designed by local architects Samuel Levy and Samuel Eisenberg. Their work was clearly influenced by the sophistication and high quality of design seen in the district's public buildings.

The rapid revitalization of the Bellingham Square Historic District left few undeveloped parcels of land. Therefore only four of the eleven intrusions are a result of new construction. The number of intrusions are minimal and their presence does not affect the integrity of the district. Intrusions make up only 8% of the total 120 structures.

Chelsea's population peaked in 1930 and began to dwindle in the 1940s. A general reversal of economic conditions in the 1950s and 1960s led to a drop in real estate prices. The area's decline was accelerated by the intrusion of the overpowering Tobin Bridge, which cut through the city just west of Bellingham Square. Since the 1970s, however, Chelsea has seen a renewed influx of immigrants into the residential areas with social service agencies now occupying space in the commercial buildings on Broadway.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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5. Elden, L.L. Certain Towns and Cities Adjacent to Boston and the Boston Edison System, 1909.
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7. Kopf, Edward, The Intimate City: A Study of Urban Social Order, Chelsea Ma, 1906-1915
University Microfilms International, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1974.
8. Pratt, Walter M., The Burning of Chelsea, 1908
Seven Generations: A Story of Prattville and Chelsea, 1930
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal boundary description and justification)

Beginning at a point 102.92 feet along Division St. from the intersection of Cross and Division Sts., the boundary follows the southeast property lines of 251-259 Broadway in a northeastward direction and runs along the northwest side of Division St to within 100.80 feet of the intersection of Fourth and Division Sts. where it turns southeastward running along the western property line of 178 Pearl, crossing Pearl St. to the western property line of 112-116 Hawthorn at which point it turns westerly for 10 feet and south for 73 feet. At Hawthorn St., the boundary again turns northeastward running along the southern property line of 112-116 Hawthorn for 94.80 feet at which point the district boundary turns in a northeast direction to run along the southern boundary of 121-123 Hawthorn, at which point it turns to follow the eastern property lines of 121-123 and 131-133 Hawthorn to the southern property line of 150-154 Shurtleff where it turns easterly again proceeding to Shurtleff St. The district boundary crosses Shurtleff and turns southwestward proceeding to the southern property line of 137-139 Shurtleff; at which point it follows the southern and eastern property lines to the southern property line of 27-31 Chester; at which point the district boundary follows the southern and eastern property line of 27-31 Chester to the center line of Shawmut, turning east and running along Chester to the southern property line of 133-137 Shawmut; at which point it turns north to run along the eastern property lines of 133-143 Shawmut. At Cottage St. the boundary turns westerly, crossing Shawmut to 148 and follows the easterly and northerly property lines of 148 Shawmut, until it turns north again and proceeds, crossing Bellingham St, in a northerly direction, running along the eastern property line of the Mt. Bellingham Church and the YMCA to Grove St. The district boundary crosses Grove, turns eastward and proceeds to the eastern boundary of 44 Grove at which point it turns north for 62.75 feet, east for 41.67 feet, north for 67.50 feet, west for 245 feet; at which point the boundary follows the southern and eastern property lines of 11 Library, to the eastern property line of 571-577 Broadway. The boundary then follows the eastern property line of 571-583 Broadway, the southern, eastern and northern boundaries of 585-593 Broadway, crossing Broadway to St. Rose Church. At the Church, the boundary follows the eastern, northern and western property lines of St. Rose Church and School, along Broadway, the railroad tracks and Chestnut. At 311-319 Chestnut, the boundary turns west crossing Chestnut St. and runs along the northern boundary of 1-3 Fay Square, crossing Wahsington St and follows the north and west boundaries of 52-56 Washington to Sixth St, where it crosses to the western property lines of 48 Washington and 286-270 Chestnut. At the southern property line of 270 Chestnut, the boundary turns eastward crossing Chestnut to the northern property line of 261 where it turns southward and proceeds to the corner of Chestnut and Fifth, where it turns eastward for 80 feet; at which point the boundary crossed Fifth and follows the western

continued

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Bellingham Square H.D.

Item number 10

Page 2

and southern property lines of 14 Fifth, crossing Cherry, where it turns south for 25 feet and then follows the western and southern property lines of 458 Broadway. The district boundary crosses Broadway, at which point it turns southward and continues along Broadway to the southern property line of 251-259 Broadway, where it turns east and forms a continuous boundary for Bellingham Square Historic District.

The boundary includes an architecturally and historically cohesive district, distinct from surrounding areas. The topography is relatively flat with hills surrounding the district on the north and east sides. North of Bellingham Square are the railroad tracks. On the northwestern boundary, the expressway and Tobin Bridge separate the district from other Chelsea neighborhoods. The west side of Broadway includes single story commercial buildings, unlike those in the historic district. On the southeasterly and northeasterly boundaries the housing outside the district changes to include mostly frame structures, distinctive from the brick construction within the historic district.

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE
1.	---	251-259 Broadway	1910	Georgian Revival
2.	Congress Building	261-265 Broadway	1909	Georgian Revival Commercial Style
3.	Chelsea Savings Bank	267-273 Broadway	1909	---
4.	---	275 Broadway	1909	Georgian Revival
5.	---	279-285 Broadway	1920	---
6.	---	287-291 Broadway	1908	Neo Classical Revival
7.	---	297-305 Broadway	1919	Neo Classical Revival
8.	Masonic Temple	311 Broadway	1910	Neo Classical Revival
9.	---	313-317 Broadway	1910	Georgian Revival
10.	---	329 Broadway	1908-09	Georgian Revival
11.	---	339-341 Broadway	1920	---
12.	---	343-349 Broadway	1909	Georgian Revival
13.	---	351-357 Broadway	1908	Georgian Revival
14.	---	361-399 Broadway 15 Fourth Street	1915-1916	Neo Classical Revival
15.	---	401 Broadway	1913	Georgian Revival
16.	---	403-405 Broadway	1908- 1909-rear addition	Georgian Revival
17.	---	407-409 Broadway	1909	---
18.	---	411 Broadway	1908	---

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE
17 19.	---	413-421 Broadway	1910	Georgian Revival
20 20.	---	423-429 Broadway	1911	Georgian Revival
21 21.	---	435-439 Broadway	1910	Neo-Classical
22 22.	---	443-447 Broadway	1909	Georgian Revival
23 23.	United States Post Office	175 Hawthorn	1910	Spanish Colonial Revival
24 24.	---	469-473 Broadway	1922	Neo Classical Revival
25 25.	---	475-477 Broadway	1910	Georgian Revival
26 26.	The Central	481-483 Broadway	1910	Georgian Revival
27 27.	Chelsea Public Library	569 Broadway	1910	Beaux Art
28 28.	---	571-577 Broadway	1929	Neo Classical Revival
29 29.	---	583 Broadway	1911	---
30 30.	---	585-593 Broadway	1908	Georgian Revival
31 31.	St. Rose Church	580 Broadway	1866/1908	Gothic Revival
32 32.	St. Rose School	580 Broadway	1911	Neo Classical Revival
33 33.	City Hall	500 Broadway	1910	Georgian Revival
34 34.	Fire Alarm Headquarters	Washington Ave.	1935	Neo Classical Revival Art Deco
35 35.	Central Fire Station	307 Chestnut St.	1908	Neo Classical Revival
36 36.	---	311-319 Chestnut St.	1911	Georgian Revival

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE	14.
37.	---	1-3 Fay Square	1916	Neo Classical Revival	
38.	---	50-56 Washington	1922	Neo Classical Revival	
39.	Chelsea Hebrew Free School	48 Washington	1923	Neo Classical Revival	
40.	---	28-40 Washington	1909	Georgian Revival	
41.	---	20 Washington	1912	Georgian Revival	
42.	---	18 Washington	1909	Georgian Revival	
43.	---	10-16 Washington	1909	Georgian Revival	
44.	S. Dedomenico Building	478 Broadway, 2-8 Washington	1908	Renaissance Revival	
45.	---	224-228 Cherry	1912	---	
46.	---	13-17 Fifth	1912, 1914	---	
47.	---	253-255 Chestnut	1911	Georgian Revival	
48.	---	259 Chestnut	1911	Georgian Revival	
49.	---	263 Chestnut	1914	Renaissance Revival	
50.	---	284-286 Chestnut	1916	Neo Classical Revival	
51.	---	280 Chestnut	1914	Colonial Revival	
52.	---	278 Chestnut	1915	Colonial Revival	
53.	---	274-276 Chestnut	1916	Georgian Revival	
54.	---	270 Chestnut	1915	Colonial Revival	
55.	---	14 Fifth	1909	Georgian Revival	
56.	DeDomenico Building	466-472 Broadway	1908	Neo Classical Revival	
57.	Freeman Building	458-464 Broadway	1908	Neo Classical Revival	

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE
58.	---	9-11 Fourth	1911	Georgian Revival
59.	---	121-123 Hawthorn	1925	Neo Classical Revival
60.	---	131-133 Hawthorn	1916	Renaissance Revival
61.	---	135-137 Hawthorn	1916	Renaissance Revival
62.	---	139-141 Hawthorn	1912	Georgian Revival
63.	Victoria Bldg.	149-151 Hawthorn	1911	Georgian Revival
64.	---	163-165 Hawthorn	1912	Georgian Revival
65.	---	184-186 Pearl St.	1909	Georgian Revival
66.	---	178 Pearl St.	1911	Georgian Revival
67.	---	112-116 Hawthorn	1911	Georgian Revival
68.	---	137-139 Shurtleff	1911	Georgian Revival
69.	---	143 Shurtleff	1909	Georgian Revival
70.	---	147-149 Shurtleff	1911	Georgian Revival
71.	---	151-153 Shurtleff	1911	Georgian Revival
72.	---	159-161 Shurtleff	1911	Georgian Revival
73.	---	163-165 Shurtleff	1919	Colonial Revival
74.	---	167 Shurtleff	1914	Renaissance Revival
75.	---	173 Shurtleff	1913	Georgian Revival
76.	First Baptist Church	185 Shurtleff	1909	Gothic Revival

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE
77.	Mt Bellingham M & E Church	28 Bellingham	1908	Gothic Revival
78.	YMCA	207 Shurtleff	1910	Georgian Revival
79.	---	221 Shurtleff	1909	Georgian Revival
80.	---	198-202 Shurtleff	1915	Georgian Revival
81.	---	196 Shurtleff	1911	Georgian Revival
82.	---	190-194 Shurtleff	1911	Georgian Revival
83.	---	176 Shurtleff	1913	Colonial Revival
84.	---	172-174 Shurtleff	1919	Renaissance Revival
85.	---	168-170 Shurtleff	1915	Georgian Revival
86.	---	162-164 Shurtleff	1911	Georgian Revival
87.	---	150-154 Shurtleff	1926	Renaissance Revival
88.	---	7 Chester	1912	Georgian Revival
89.	---	23-25 Chester	1911	Georgian Revival
90.	---	27-31 Chester	1912	Georgian Revival
91.	---	133-139 Shawmut	1912	Georgian Revival
92.	---	141 Shawmut	1912	---
93.	---	143 Shawmut	1908	Georgian Revival
94.	Chelsea Day Nursery	148 Shawmut	1909	Georgian Revival
95.	---	140 Shawmut	1916	Georgian Revival
96.	---	136 Shawmut	1913	Georgian Revival

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE
97.	---	30 Chester	1916	Colonial Revival
98.	---	26 Chester	1908	---
99.	---	8-10 Chester	1911	Georgian Revival
100.	---	12-14 Grove	1912	Georgian Revival
101.	---	16-18 Grove	1912	Georgian Revival
102.	---	26 Grove	1915	Georgian Revival
103.	---	30-34 Grove	1916	Georgian Revival
104.	---	36-38 Grove	1912	Georgian Revival
105.	---	44-46 Grove	1912	Georgian Revival
106.	---	1 Marlboro	1908	Georgian Revival
107.	---	5 Marlboro	1909	Georgian Revival
108.	---	15 Marlboro	1911	Georgian Revival
109.	---	19 Marlboro	1909	Georgian Revival
110.	---	25-27 Marlboro	1910	Georgian Revival
111.	---	31-33 Marlboro	1910	Georgian Revival
112.	---	35-37 Marlboro	1910	Georgian Revival
113.	---	41-43 Marlboro	1910	Georgian Revival
114.	---	11 Library	1909	Georgian Revival
910.	Soldiers & Sailors Monument	Bellingham Square	1869	
911.	Clock	Bellingham Square	?	

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

INTRUSIONS

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE	14.
A	---	331 Broadway	1908	intrusion/major alteratn	
B	---	14 Fourth	1908	intrusion/major alteratn	
C	---	449 Broadway	1969	intrusion/lack of histor. signif.	
D	---	1 City Hall Ave.	1958	intrusion/lack of scale design	
E	---	22 Washington St.	1922	intrusion/lack of scale	
F	---	153 Hawthorn	1948	intrusion/lack of scale historical	
G	---	156-158 Hawthorn	--	vacant lot	
H	---	148 Hawthorn	1930	intrusion/major alteratn	
I	---	130-146 Hawthorn	1937	intrusion/major alteratn	
J	American Legion	215 Shurtleff			
K	---	24 Grove	1911	intrusion/lack of scale, design	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Bellingham Square Historic District
Suffolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

DEC 6 1984

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/4/86
Date Due: 1/3/85 - 1/20/85
Action: ACCEPT 1-3-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Entered in the
National Register

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use
----------	---------------------------------	----------------------	-------------

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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> 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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Chelsea City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea

Gretchen Schuler August 1983
Office of Community Development

Photo #1
City Hall taken from Shurtleff



ELLINGHAM
HARDWARE CO.

SANDERS

CITY REAL ESTATE

TOBACCO
WAGONS
NEW

Paint
Cements

J. S. Sanders

S. DeDomenico Building
478 Broadway, 2-8 Washington Ave.
Chelsea

Gretchen Schuler August 1983
Office of Community Development

Photo #2

S. DeDomenico Bldg. from Bellingham
Square and other buildings.



United States Post Office
175 Hawthorn
Chelsea

Gretchen Schuler August 1983
Office of Community Development

Photo #3
Post Office in Bellingham Square



Broadway & Shurtleff Streetscape
Bellingham Square
Chelsea

Gretchen Schuler ^{August} August 1983
Office of Community Development

Photo #4
Looking south at 190-206 Shurtleff
and 400 block east side Broadway



117

NO
LEFT TURN

Grove Streetscape
North side of Grove, #12-46
Chelsea

Gretchen Schuler August 1983
Office of Community Development

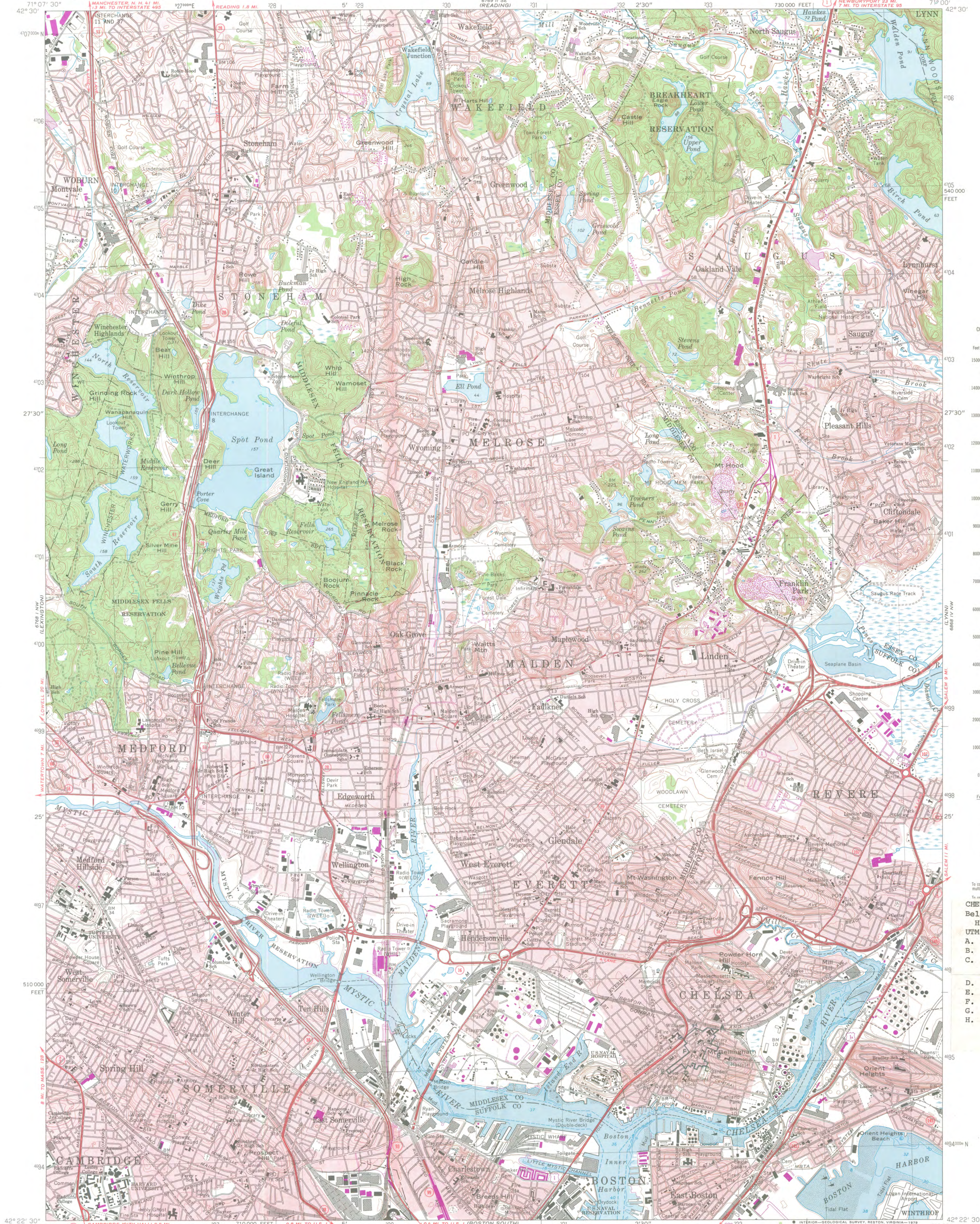
Photo #5
Georgian Revival bowfronts on Grove
looking east.



Broadway Streetscape
East side of Broadway 300 block
Chelsea

Gretchen Schuler August 1983
Office of Community Development

Photo #6
Classical Revival buildings on
Broadway looking south



CONVERSION SCALES



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

To convert feet to meters multiply by 3048

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.28

CHELSEA, MA

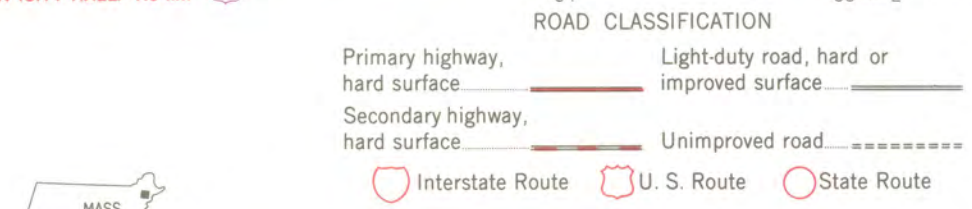
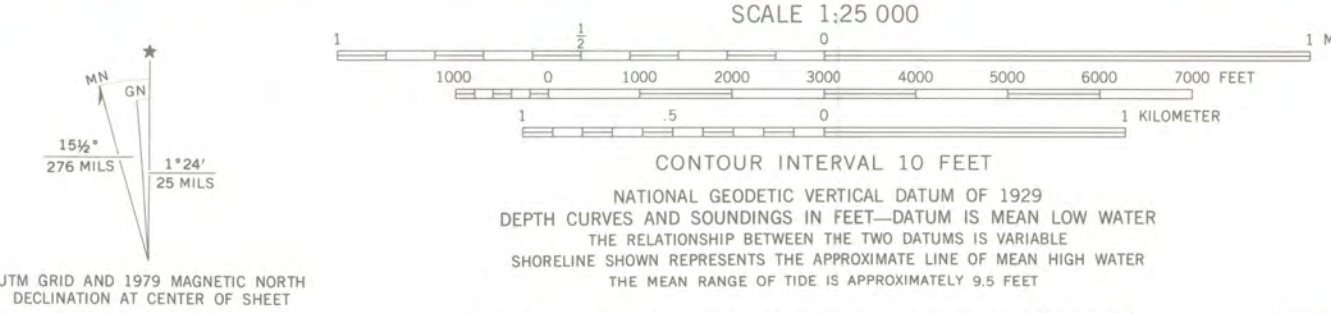
Bellingham Square

Historic District

UTM References:

- A. 19/332830/4695380
- B. 19/332800/4695140
- C. 19/332650/4694960
- D. 19/332430/4694940
- E. 19/332430/4694940
- F. 19/332480/4695130
- G. 19/332420/4695300
- H. 19/332560/4695410

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 1971
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 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
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 19
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map



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

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

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.
N4222.5—W7100/7.5
1971
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6788 1 NE—SERIES V814

The City of Chelsea Massachusetts



City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, MA 02150
884-0407

Paul G. Casino, Acting Mayor

Office of the Mayor

October 27, 1983

Ms. Valerie Talmage, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Talmage:

Enclosed please find Chelsea's application for the nomination of the Bellingham Square Historic District as a National Register Historic District.

The proposed district includes public and private buildings constructed immediately after the Great Fire of 1908 which destroyed all buildings within the boundaries of the proposed District. The buildings have historic significance not only as representatives of early twentieth century architecture, but also as the elements of an unusually, comprehensive urban design program which occurred in response to the destruction caused by the fire.

Designating the Bellingham Square Area as a National Historic District will provide incentives for preserving the buildings and will enhance Chelsea's image as a place of historic interest.

Upon your review of the attached application, I would appreciate an opportunity for my staff to meet with representatives of your office to discuss the proposed designation. Please contact Michael F. Glavin, Director of the Office of Community Development at 889-0700 to arrange such a meeting at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and the assistance your office has provided to Chelsea in its community development program efforts.

Very truly yours,

Paul G. Casino
Acting Mayor

PGC/gg
cc: Michael F. Glavin
encl.

CITY HALL
300 BRIDGEWAY
CHelsea, MA 02138
BOSTON



The City of Chelsea Massachusetts

Office of the Mayor

Paul C. Casino, Acting Mayor

October 14, 1983

RECEIVED
OCT 28 1983

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Mr. Walter Talmage, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Mr. Talmage:

Enclosed please find Chelsea's application for the nomination of the Bellingham Square Historic District as a National Register Historic District.

The proposed district includes public and private buildings constructed immediately after the Great Fire of 1908 which destroyed all buildings within the boundaries of the proposed district. The buildings have historic significance not only as representatives of early twentieth century architecture, but also as the elements of an unusually, extensive historic urban design program which occurred in response to the destruction caused by the fire.

Nominating the Bellingham Square Area as a National Historic District will provide incentives for preserving the buildings and will enhance Chelsea's image as a place of historic interest.

Upon your review of the attached application, I would appreciate an opportunity for us to meet with representatives of your office to discuss the proposed designation. Please contact Michael F. Glavin, Director of the Office of Community Development at 889-0700 to arrange with a meeting at your convenience.

Thank you for your consideration of this application and the assistance your office has provided to Chelsea in its community development program efforts.

Very truly yours,

Paul C. Casino
Acting Mayor

cc: Michael F. Glavin
encl.

address will not fit
in data base - 4 streets
chosen as rough boundary
by control unit

EB.

1-17-85

"Roughly bounded by
Broadway, Shawmut, Chestnut, Shurtleff
Sts."