

AUG 21 1989 1543

AREA

FORM NO.

FORM B - BUILDING

NATIONAL REGISTER

	49
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

WALTHAM, MA MRA  
Waltham, Massachusetts

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Address 376 - 390 Moody Street

Historic Name Harrington Block

Use Present commercial block

Original "

Photo (3"x 3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

DESCRIPTION

Date 1884 - 1885

Source Daily Free Press

Style Panel Brick/ Queen Anne

Architect C. F. Parks

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north see attached sheet

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_  
second story windows  
modern store front treatments (n.d.)

Condition good

Moved no - Date n/a

Acreage 10,230 sq. ft. 0.234 69-17-20

Setting key component in Moody Street  
commercial strip that is for the most part,  
heavily altered

UTM REFERENCE 19/315770/4693010

USGS QUADRANGLE NEWTON

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Waltham Historical Comm.

Date June, 1986

## NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Harrington Block possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It is significant as an extremely well documented building associated with Moody Street's development as Waltham's most fashionable shopping district at the turn-of-the-century. It is one of the earliest extant masonry blocks which came to replace the previous mix of wood-frame shops and residences. It is also important as a good example of the Panel Brick/Queen Anne style, and as a well preserved commercial block in an area of Moody Street that has been heavily impacted by drastic alterations. The Harrington Block thus meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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

The Harrington Block is a handsome example of a Panel Brick/Queen Anne commercial block. Although its original ground-floor store fronts have been altered by modern surface treatments, this building retains the masonry fabric of its main facade's upper floors. The original brick-work of its side walls are also intact. Its facades are divided vertically by brickwork piers - four, two bay segments on its main facade, and six-bay segments on its Cushing Street wall. Brickwork courses in the form of angled bricks and raised stretcher bricks appear between floors two and three, and between the third floor windows and the parapet. The second floor windows of the main facade appear to have been widened. The other windows of the upper floors retain their original size. The third floor windows exhibit wooden enframements and are recessed within a segmental arched opening.

(cont)

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

Built in 1884/1885, the historical significance of the Harrington Block is threefold: first and foremost, this building is part of Waltham's small, but choice collection of Panel Brick/Queen Anne commercial masonry blocks. Secondly this building has important historical associations with Charles Harrington, Boston Manufacturing Company Bleachery employee, contractor and real estate speculator. Thirdly, his building provides a physical link with Moody Street's late 19th century period of emergence as Waltham's most important commercial center.

Construction of the Harrington Block began in October 1884 - at that time the block's location was considered by a Waltham Sentinel reporter to be "too far from the center of the city." (the very first brick commercial block on Moody Street, the Connelly Block (1878) was located closer to the Moody Street Bridge at the corner of Crescent and Moody Streets - later reworked in the Art Deco style as part of Grover Cronin's department store). At any rate, Nicholas Roach was responsible for the block's "solid wall foundation." The new block would have a frontage of 100' and measure 60' deep, standing three stories tall. The new block was built with four large stores with basements and two front stairways. The second and third floors contained

(cont)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

"Waltham Souvenir", author unknown, 1905, see WPL archives

Maps/Atlases 1874, 1881, 1883, 1900

Waltham/Watertown Directories - 1880's, 1890's

Daily Free Press, October 4, 1884; Sept 6, 1886

Obituary- Charles Harrington- Daily Free Press, June 1, 1888

Bacon, G.F., "Waltham and Watertown Representative Businessmen", 1893

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, 376 Moody Street, continued

The arch is composed of small, square, header-brick-like forms, which are recessed into the wall surface. Considerable architectural interest is concentrated at the cornice and parapet level with a stepped corbel table (broken by the brickwork piers) and central parapet gable, containing a brownstone plaque which reads "Harrington Block, 1885" in raised stone lettering. The plaque is set within a blind-gauged brickwork arch. The parapet's center gable is flanked by short corbelled brickwork piers with stone caps. The piers, in turn, are flanked by low parapet walls which exhibit billet-work decoration. The Cushing Street wall's surface treatment are identical to those of the main facade. Four short chimneys rise from the Cushing Street Wall. In general, the Harrington Block's upper floors are characterized by slender, vertical and horizontal brickwork forms with large rectangular, recessed panels containing windows - still in evidence is quality design and craftsmanship.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued

five tenements of seven and eight rooms each. Each tenement was provided with "a convenient cellar in which to place coal or fuel. Each tenement featured "folding doors" between the two front rooms. To the rear of the building was a courtyard which was designed as a clothes hanging area.

Waltham's citizens involved in the Harrington Block's construction are well documented and include Nelson F. Libbey, foreman of the woodworkers (see form on the Libby House, 147-149 Weston Street); A. D. French, cornice and woodwork; Watson and Stearns, plumber; Mr. Kilbain, painting. This buildings plans were drawn by Charles F. Parks. He is listed in 1880's Waltham/Watertown Directories as a civil engineer with house and office at Adams near Chestnut Street, on the South Side.

The Harrington Block was named in honor of Charles Harrington. He was a resident of the Bleachery neighborhood (120 Willow Street) and for forty-four years was in the employ of the BMC Bleachery. Mr. Harrington, "early developed an interest in real estate transactions and purchased a large tract of land of the late George Lyman, comprising what is now (1888) the S. D. Warren estate on either side of Linden Street from Beaver Street half the distance to Main Street." Harrington is credited with the construction of three houses on Linden Street - he was responsible for one half of Linden Street's construction, the other half was completed by the town. He was connected with numerous Waltham social and civic organizations including The Odd Fellow, Loan and Fund Association, Fire Brigade and Agricultural Society. He died in May, 1888.

The Harrington Block has important historical associations with several late 19th/early 20th century Waltham commercial concerns. At least one of its commercial spaces was rented before this block's completion in October, 1885. Mr. Elmer E. Tennison, druggist, rented space in this building a month or so before its completion. During the early 1890's, P.J.H. Lewis, a Boston candy kitchen was located here. Lewis, a native of Yarmouth, Cape Cod "manufactured only the purest confections." For many years E. Totman and Company, hardware was located in the Harrington Block. Two commercial concerns specialized in "high grade, thoroughly reliable hardware." This firm carried "builder's materials, mechanic's tools, fine cutlery, paints, oils, varnishes, brushes

Waltham, MA.  
376-390 Moody St.  
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE, continued #49

etc." Mr. Totman began his hardware business in Maine. For many years he was a member of Waltham's Masonic Fraternity and Businessmen's Association.

As the Harrington Block neared completion in the fall of 1885, a reporter for the Daily Free Press noted that "the whole combined makes an imposing and handsome block, an investment which is beneficial to the city, and will be profitable to the builder. The building is rightly named Harrington's Block."



HARRINGTON'S BLOCK, MOODY STREET.

c. early 1890's

WALTHAM, MA 376-390 Moody St.



↑ Harrington Block

MOODY STREET, FROM HARRINGTON BLOCK.

Waltham, MA MRA  
Harrington Block

FROM: WALTHAM ILLUSTRATED - UNDATED - Waltham Pub. Library c. late 1880's/early 1890's

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 21 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Waltham MRA  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
41. Hall, Henry C., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	f Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
42. Hammond, Ephraim, House <i>Substantive Review</i>	sn Keeper <u>Beth J. Savage 9/18/89</u> Attest _____
43. Hammond, Jonathan, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	f Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
44. Hardy, Nahum, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	v Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
45. Harrington Block <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	v Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
46. Harrington, Samuel, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	v Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
47. Hill, Rev. Thomas, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	v Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
48. Hobbs Brook Basin Gate House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	f Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
49. Holbrook, Richard, Houses <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	f Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/28/89</u> Attest _____
50. Johnson, Edwin C., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	f Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/28/89</u> Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Harrington Block

MULTIPLE NAME: Waltham MRA

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/21/89      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/05/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/21/89      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/05/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001543

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    9/28/89 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage               verbal boundary description  
 UTM's               boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps       USGS maps       photographs       presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



W.M. INC.

Vernon's

Singer

RESTAURANT

note

#49 Harrington Block

Waltham MA MA

376-390 Moody St.



UNION TRADING COMPANY  
ESTABLISHED 1850



RUSH ASSOC  
MANUFACTURER'S

380

This name for  
BEAUFYVILLE

• DANCEWEAR  
• AEROBICS  
• SKATING

Ver

BYONE'S HOME DE

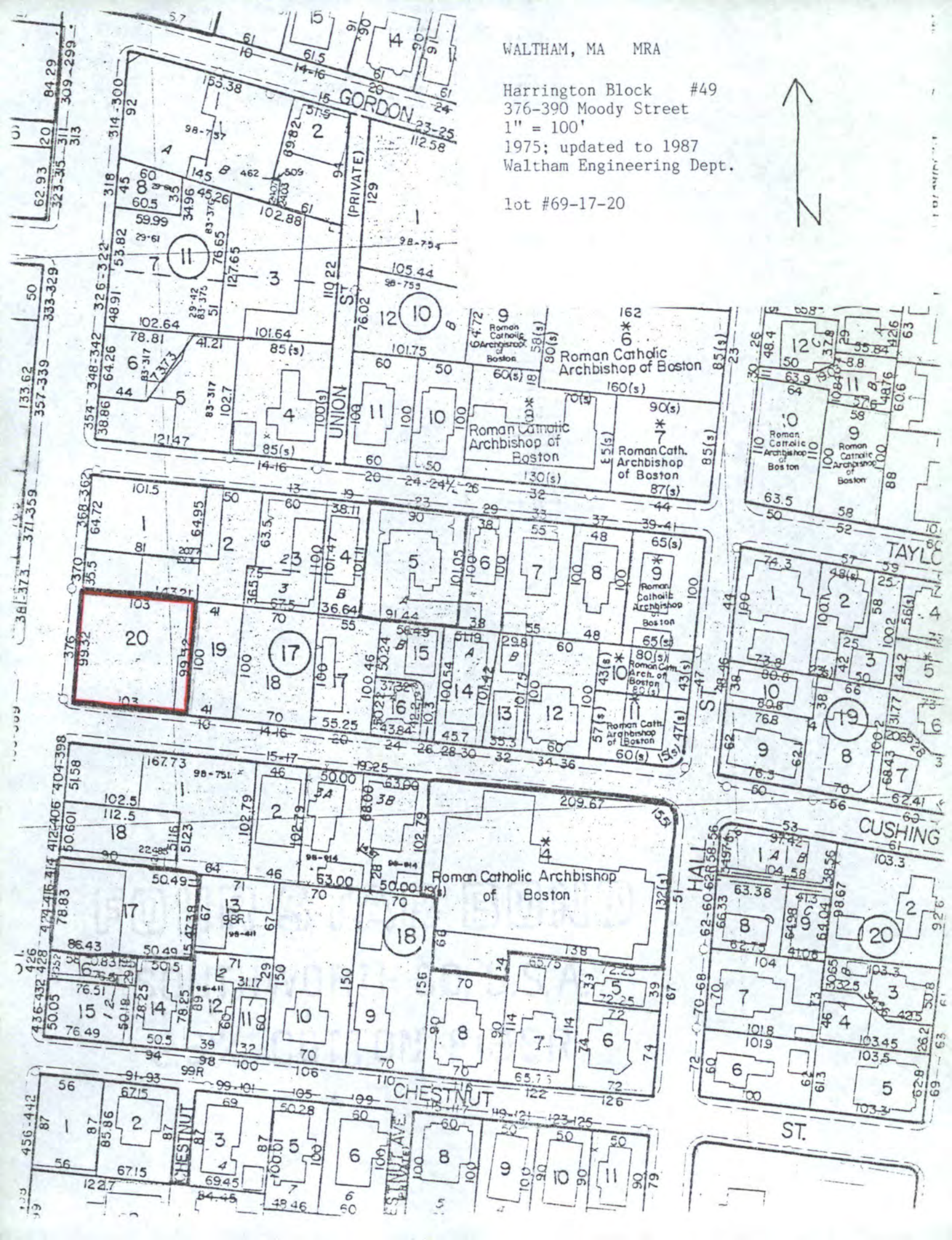
Waltham, MA MRA  
MHC # 49 Harrington Block  
376-390 Moody St.



WALTHAM, MA MRA

Harrington Block #49  
376-390 Moody Street  
1" = 100'  
1975; updated to 1987  
Waltham Engineering Dept.

lot #69-17-20



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000301