

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Suffolk
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 13 1973



1. NAME	
COMMON:	
Cyclorama Building	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
543-545-547 Tremont Street			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Boston (South End)		8	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Suffolk	025

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both		☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☒ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) exhibition hall	☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Boston Redevelopment Authority			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Ninth Floor, City Hall			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Boston		Massachusetts	025

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Suffolk Registry of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Pemberton Square			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Boston		Massachusetts	025

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth			
DATE OF SURVEY:	1972	☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Massachusetts Historical Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
40 Beacon Street			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Boston		Massachusetts	025

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Suffolk
ENTRY NUMBER	APR 13 1973
DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☐ Good	☒ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cyclorama Building, built in 1884, faces southeast on Tremont Street in Boston's South End. It is bordered to the west by the Tremont Estates and Pennock buildings. The National Theater is adjacent to the east. The two-story brick and concrete Cyclorama Building is capped by a glass dome above a rotunda.* The original "Victorian feudal" facade had a keep and guard tower, but these were removed and the building was altered to its present appearance in 1922-23 when the Boston Flower Exchange moved in. At this time changes were made to the roof and the lantern was removed. In 1929 a second story was added to the office in the front of the building. A one-story addition was made to the rear of the building in 1949.

The 135-foot long facade contains nine bays. The bays at each end contain two-story arches outlined by inset blocks of concrete which form a pattern of squares topped by a concrete lintel. Windows fill the entire arched space at the second floor level. A wide panel divides the window area from the first floor doors which open directly onto the sidewalk. The central bay has a similar arrangement of windows and doors. However, a concrete parapet interrupts the arched corbelling that extends across the full width of the facade, and continues above the roof line. This parapet is divided into a series of recessed rectangular panels, some of which contain heraldic shields and other decorative motifs. The brick wall on either side of this central and most prominent bay is divided into three bays containing round-arched second story windows and rectangular windows and door openings at ground level.

The Cyclorama was built for the express purpose of housing a huge circular painting -- "The Battle of Gettysburg." Although this panoramic form of painting is no longer exhibited here, the interior has not been changed significantly except that the 50-foot high brick rotunda is now covered over with a 127-foot diameter glass dome which replaced the original tin structure in 1922.

Although basically in sound condition, the estimate for interior repairs and renovations is \$500,000. A small theater, restaurant and the administrative offices of the surrounding Boston Center for the Arts complex are planned adaptive uses for this building.

* This central space is the most outstanding physical feature of the building.



S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

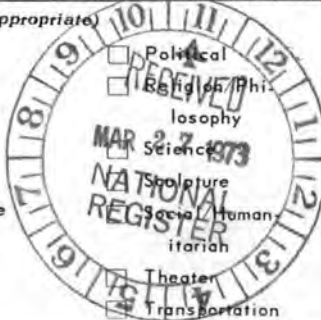
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1884; 1922-23; 1929; 1949

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Philosophy☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Science

entertainment

☐ Agriculture☒ Invention☐ Sculpture☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Social/Humanitarian☒ Art☐ Architecture☐ Theater☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ Transportation☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Conservation☐ Music

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cyclorama is both a unique structure architecturally and a Victorian social document. The first building erected on the property was a large brick structure known as the Moody Sankey Tabernacle, dedicated in January, 1877. The scene of evangelical revival meetings, the venture was not a financial success and the building was demolished. The Cyclorama building was erected on the same site in 1884 by Boston architects Charles A. Cummings and Willard T. Sears for Charles F. Willoughby, a wealthy Chicago merchant, to provide exhibition space for a cyclorama of the Battle of Gettysburg.

A cyclorama is defined as a pictorial representation of the whole view visible from one point by an observer who in turning around looks successively to all points of the horizon. The artist supposes himself surrounded by a cylindrical surface in whose center he stands and he projects the landscape from this position onto the cylinder. The observer stands on a platform which might represent the flat roof of a house or the top of a hill, for example, and the space between this platform and the picture contains real objects which gradually blend into the picture itself. Lighting effects are ingenious and to heighten the drama of the whole spectacle, passages leading to the platform are darkened. This distinctive method of painting in the grand manner was very popular in the 19th century.

The painting, "The Battle of Gettysburg," was 400 feet in circumference and 50 feet high. It was executed by the French artist, Paul Philippoteaux, a graduate of the École des Beaux-Arts and the author of a number of other cycloramic paintings, as was his father, Henri. In fact, Henri created a cyclorama of the "Siege of Paris," which found its way to Boston in 1878, and was the first cyclorama exhibited in the city. Paul Philippoteaux was commissioned to paint the Battle of Gettysburg at a contract price of \$50,000 and came to this country to make sketches, plans and drawings of the battlefield, study official war maps in Washington and interview officers of both armies. With this documentary information he returned to Paris, where the great work was completed in two years. The exhibition opened in Boston on December 22, 1884, and was a tremendous popular success for several years. In 1924 the National Park Service acquired the painting and it is now exhibited at the Gettysburg National Military Park in Pennsylvania.

Other cycloramas exhibited in the building included "The Battle of the Little

[continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Advertiser-Post-Journal, Boston, December 26-30, 1884.
 Boston Evening Transcript, January 27, 1877; December 30, 1884; April 27, 1895;
 July 3, 1913.
 Boston Globe, December 20 & 21, 1884; February 14, 1885.
 Boston Herald, December 21 & 24, 1884.
 Miller, Walter H., The Gettysburg Cyclorama, Williamsburg, Virginia, 1969,
 booklet prepared in cooperation with the Gettysburg National Military Park.

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		71° 04' 09 1/2	42° 20' 40"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one acre**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Andréa K. Calfee, Consultant

ORGANIZATION
Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE
December 19, 1972

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. H. [Signature]*
 Secretary of the Commonwealth and
 Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
 Title Commission

Date **March 12, 1973**

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

Date *4/13/73*

ATTEST:

[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date *4/11/73*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 18 1973

(Number all entries)

8. Significance -- Boston, Cyclorama Building

Big Horn" by E. Pierpoint, a New York artist, in 1889; "Jerusalem, The Holy City at the time of Christ," in 1891; and in 1895, an accurate and fiery representation of the Hawaiian volcano Kilauea, by Walter Burridge, who spent four months at the volcano's edge studying the topography.

Declining public interest in cycloramas led to the use of Boston's Cyclorama Building for exhibitions, roller skating, a bicycle arena and a garage. Albert Champion invented his A.C. sparkplug here in 1907. The building was last used commercially to house the Boston wholesale flower market, where colorful and fragrant plants and flowers filled the area under the dome. It is appropriate that the Cyclorama, which reflects the amusements of Victorian Boston, has been selected for re-use as part of the city's modern cultural complex -- The Boston Center for the Arts.



PROPERTY Cyclorama BuildingSTATE MASS.WORKING NUMBER 3.27.73.2632

5-31-73

TECH REVIEW

Photos 2Maps 1

Suffolk

CONTROL REVIEW

HISTORIAN

OK em 3-29-73

Accept - AML
3/29/73

Shull

notified HMO

Accept 3-10-73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
EH
4/2/73

ARCHAEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

OK for Whitely
4/11/73

National Register write-up _____

Send-back _____

Federal Register entry 6-5-73

Re-submit _____

Entered _____

APR 13 1973



BOSTON

543-545-547 Tremont Street

CYCLORAMA BUILDING

BOSTON CENTER FOR THE ARTS, Inc.

November 1971,

M2442-10

NPS Number 4/13/73

5

Title: Cyclorama Bldg.

Loc. Suffolk, Mass.

Tremont St. Facade

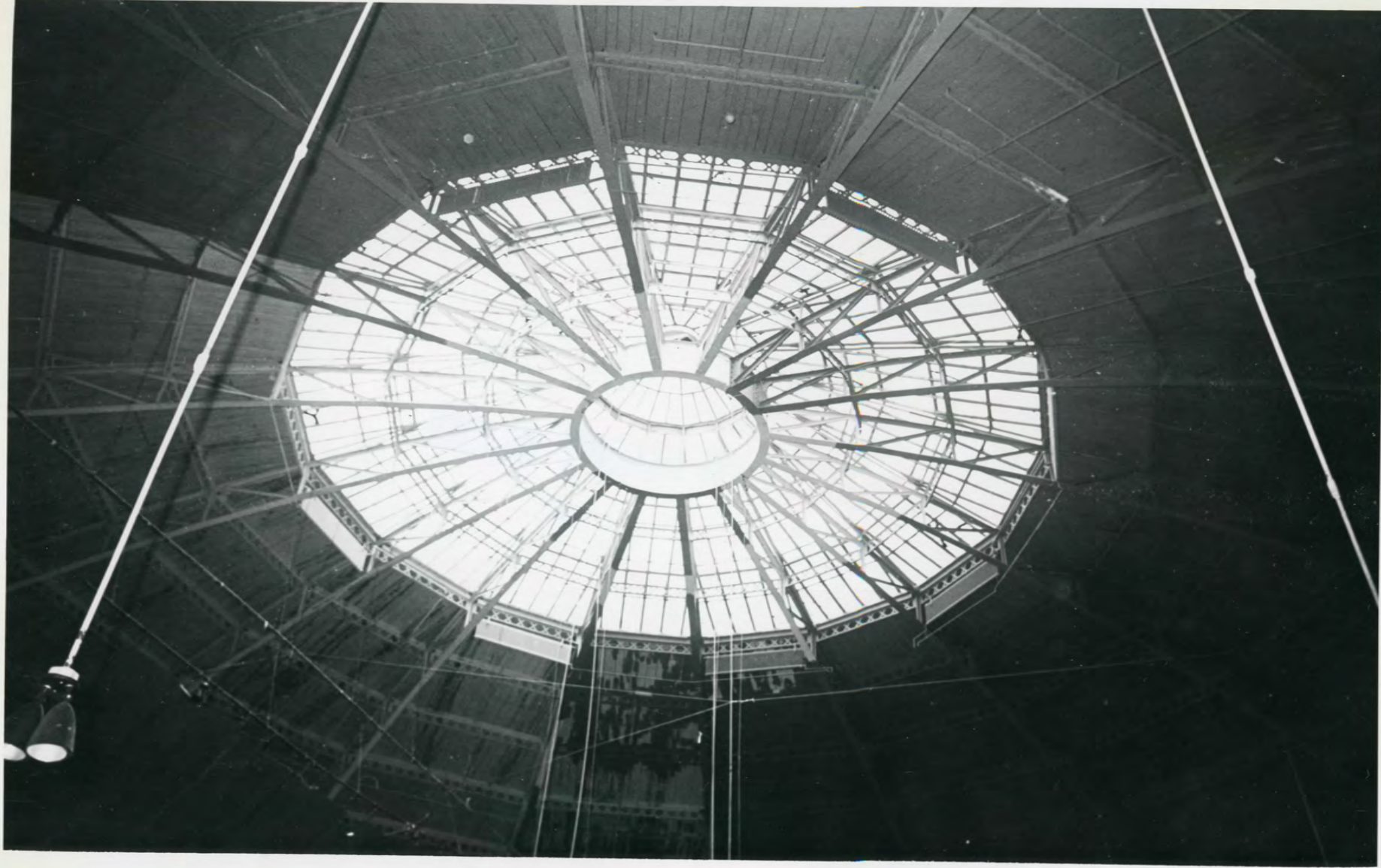
①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
JET

COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHERS
35 LEON ST. BOSTON, MASS.
CO 7-5230

M2442-10



NPS Number 4/13/73

Title: Cyclorama Bldg.

Loc. Suffolk, Mass.

interior of dome

②

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Cyclorama Building, Boston, Mass.
interior of dome

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

1. NAME

COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
<u>Cyclorama Building</u>		APR 13 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Massachusetts	Suffolk	Boston (South End)

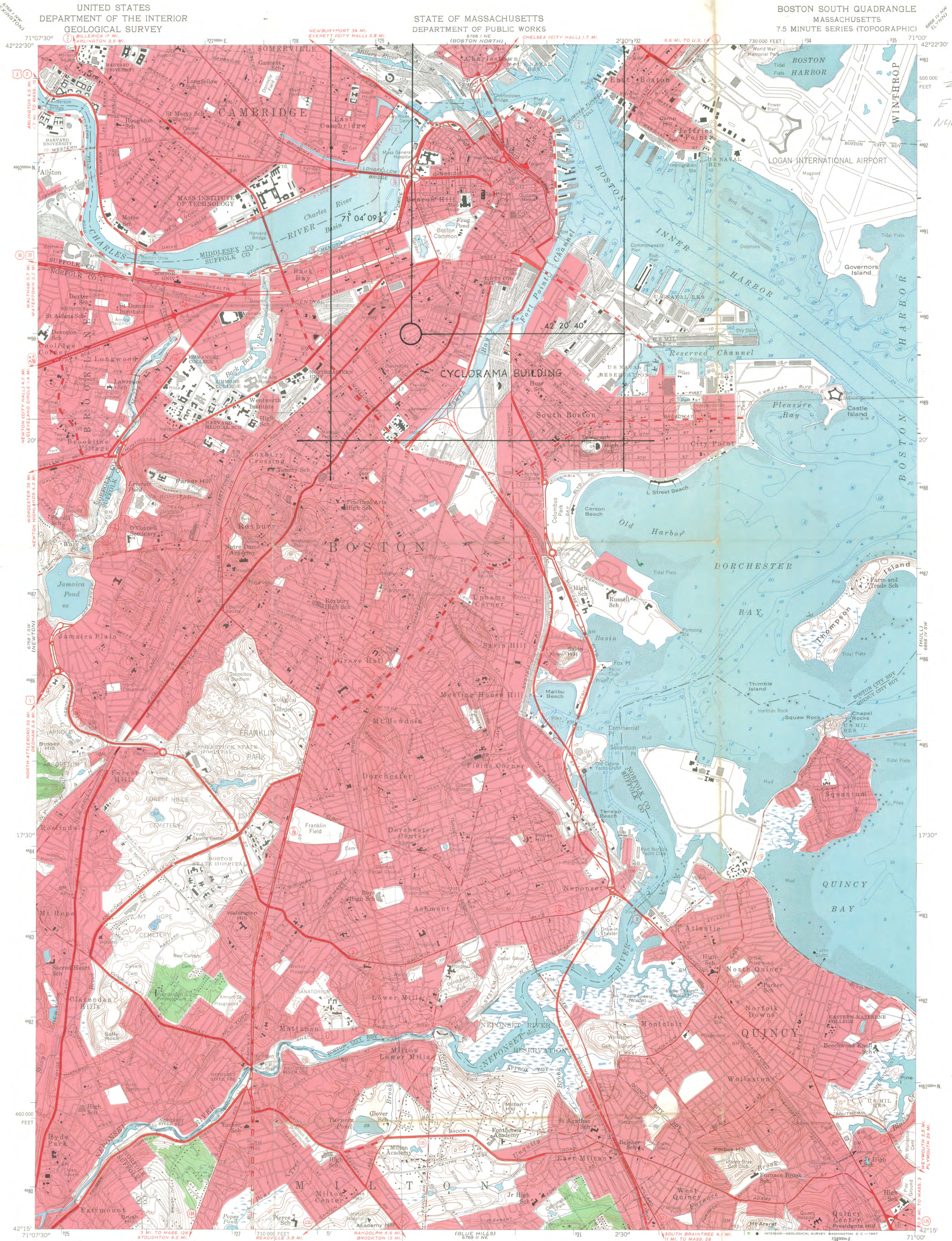
STREET AND NUMBER
543-545-547 Tremont Street

3. MAP REFERENCE

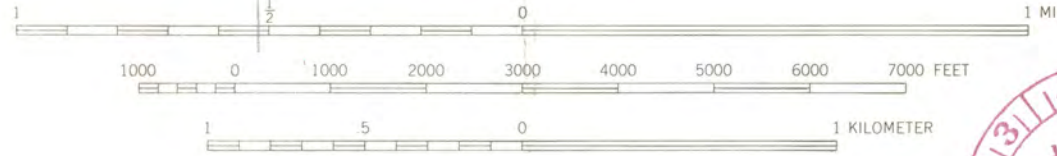
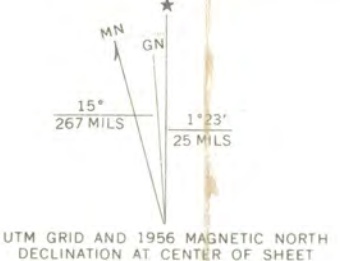
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U. S. G. S. Boston South, Mass.	1956	1 : 24,000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.



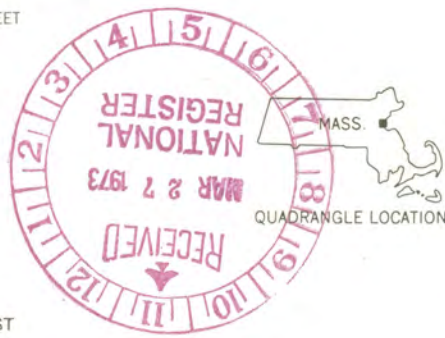


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USCGS, Mass. Harbor & Land Commission,
and Mass. Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Culture revised by
photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955
Field check 1956
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 246 (1956)
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts (Mainland)
coordinate system.
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information
supplied by Mass. Dept. of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
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, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215-W7100/7.5
1956
AMS 6768 I SE—SERIES V814

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

To: _____

FOLLOW-UP SLIP

Date 3-10-73

I called Ms. Sweeney for more
information - as usual - no response!
Form indicates that Cyclorama Bldg
is to be preserved & used as
center for the Arts.

Signature C. Skull



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
Massachusetts Historical Commission

John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth

3--Joy--Street--
40 Beacon Street

Boston, Mass. 02108

March 21, 1973

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

Attention: Mr. Jerry Rogers

CERTIFIED MAIL

Dear Jerry:

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

Suffolk County, Boston, Cyclorama Building;
Suffolk County, Boston, Highland Park.

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and has been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth John F. X. Davoren, Chairman of the Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated the State Liaison Officer.

Please note that the properties covered by these submissions are to be included in our 1974 apportionment warrant. Therefore, we would appreciate your processing these nominations promptly. Please let us know if any other information is needed.

Sincerely,

RBR

Robert B. Rettig
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RBR/akc
enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered APR 13 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Cambridge Common Historic District	Cambridge Middlesex County
Wenham Historic District	Wenham Essex County
"Old Stone Church"	West Boylston Worcester County
Hamilton Historic District	Hamilton Essex County
Cyclorama Building	Boston (South End) Suffolk County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Thomas F. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Robert Drinan
Mr. Floyd H. Hyde, HUD
Director, Northeast Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F.X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02103

PHR

NRowland:pc1 4/27/73

Marguerite -
please
notify
HUB &

give v back to
control sheet
be do x u r

Carol