

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received SEP 21 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Gillon Block
and/or common Ring and Welch Building

2. Location

street & number 189 Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Milford N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~
state Massachusetts code 025 county Worcester code 027

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 189 Main Street Realty Trust
street & number 46 Main Street
city, town Milford N/A vicinity of state Massachusetts

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Registry of Deeds
street & number 2 Main Street
city, town Worcester state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the
title Commonwealth, # 224 has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1981 federal state county local
depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission
city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Milford, Gillon Block

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gillon Block, a four story, flat roofed, red brick commercial block, is situated in the center of the downtown business district of Milford. The building fronts 96 feet on Main Street, extends 106 feet back, and rises 78 feet. It covers nearly all of the 100' X 111' parcel on which it stands. A 12 feet wide interior court extends to the rear and gives the second, third, and fourth floors a U-shaped layout (see enclosed floor plans). The building's heavy timber framing members are augmented by iron columns in the first floor stores. It is Main Street's most outstanding late nineteenth century commercial block.

The Main Street facade is eclectic in style but completely symmetrical in form, being divided into seven bays by brick piers. A central pavilion gives the suggestion of a tower, as it projects two feet towards the street and is topped by a curved mansard roof. The mansard features a semicircular pedimented dormer on each side and an onion shaped dome at the top. Flanking the central frontispiece are two secondary pavilions, each of which is framed by brick piers which rise above the cornice line to enclose a brick pediment. (photograph 1)

The ornamentation of the Gillon Block is hectic. Rectangular, 2 over 2 windows occur singly and in pairs, articulated by granite sills and lintels. (The only arched window occurs on the second floor of the frontispiece.) Spandrel panels are filled with brick corbelling, terra cotta ornament, and brownstone carvings. Terra cotta panels are also employed within the facade pediments and piers. An elaborate corbelled cornice encircles the building. Unfortunately, all of the block's first floor storefronts have been remodelled in the twentieth century.

The Gillon Block's main entrance, at the base of the central pavilion, is enclosed by alternating blocks of Longmeadow brown stone and Milford white granite. An Islamic arch, carved in brownstone, springs from two engaged Romanesque columns of polished Milford pink granite with brownstone capitals. The floor of the recessed entry is a checkerboard of pink and white Milford granite, and a stained glass fanlight surmounts the double doors inside. The facade of the frontispiece is capped by a brownstone sunburst emanating from rectangular granite panels on which "1888" and "P. GILLON" are set in raised, polished letters.

The side and rear elevations of the Gillon Block contain plain brick walls pierced by rectangular windows of varying sizes, all articulated by granite sills and lintels. The taller windows at the rear of the side elevations are contained within large recessed panels with brick corbelling.

Significant interior spaces include two 40' X 60' X 19' meeting halls on the third floor (photo #s 3 and 4). The halls' original woodwork remains, as does most of the decorative stencilling on walls and ceilings. A number of anterooms adjoin these halls. Two "banquet halls" occupy the fourth floor, 23 offices line a U-shaped corridor on the second floor (photo # 2), and three stores and a barroom occupy the first floor. Period wainscoting, molding, doors, transoms, and pressed brass doorknobs are found throughout the building

8. Significance

Gillon Block, Milford

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1888 **Builder/Architect** Rinaldo V. Carey

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gillon Block retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, and location. The building is closely linked to Milford's late 19th century development and is Milford's most outstanding excellent example of eclectic, late Victorian commercial architecture; it meets criteria A and C of the National Register.

The Gillon Block was designed by Rinaldo V. Carey, a local architect whose self-proclaimed specialty was public buildings. This is Carey's only known building, however, The Gillon Block's variety of motifs, materials, textures, and colors exude a playfulness and exuberance typical of the late Victorian period, although the idiosyncrasy of this design is highly distinctive. The largely intact interior spaces are a rare survivor of the period.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, Milford's economy rested on shoe manufacturing and granite quarrying. Milford granite was preferred by many an architect-- McKim, Mead & White among others-- and was shipped to all corners of the U.S. and even to Europe. The Gillon Block is the largest of a number of imposing commercial buildings erected during the height of Milford's prosperity. These late Victorian, red brick structures continue to dominate Main Street and to define its character.

Patrick Gillon, for whom the building was erected, made his fortune in the liquor business. A number of surviving bottles marked "Gillon" suggest that he was a bottle manufacturer as well. The lower floors of the Gillon Block have housed a great many commercial interests. These include insurance, legal, medical, and dental offices, musicians' studios, a tailor, bank, barbershop, union hall, municipal offices, and a number of restaurants and stores. The building's two large third floor meeting halls were originally known as Temperance Hall and Red Men's Hall. The Red Men, along with other Gillon tenants such as the Eagles and the Order of the Eastern Star, are among the more than 20 fraternal organizations which once thrived in Milford. Due to the town's geographic isolation, the social role of these organizations took on added importance in the life of the community.

Temperance and Red Men's Halls were converted during the 1920s to dance halls, and re-named the Rainbow Room and the Blue Room. The Blue Room eventually became a regular stop on the jazz and big band circuit, and reputedly drew the likes of Duke Ellington, Stan Kenton, and Gene Krupa. As a popular rehearsal facility during the 1930s and 40s, the Gillon Block gained renown in music circles throughout southern New England as "the Jazz Building." Milford itself produced a disproportionate share of talented musicians, and some went so far as to call the town "Little Chicago."

The Gillon Block presently houses a number of first floor stories and offices on the upper floor.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Milford Historical Commission, History of Milford (Milford: Charles Kraft Press, 1980)
Milford Journal (January 18, 1888), Milford Directories (1880-1920)
Interviews with Milford residents Edwin P. Lilley, Jr., Marilyn Lovell, Ziggy Minichiello,
William Ring, and Dwight Watson (3/17/82)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .25

Quadrangle name Milford, MA

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A

1	9	2	9	1	6	8	0	4	6	6	8	2	4	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The 96' X 106" Gillon Block nearly covers the entire 11,000 sq. ft. on which it stands, indicated in Assessor's records as lot # 566 on page 48. Beginning at the NE corner of the premises at a drillhole in the westerly line of Main St., the boundary runs NW 111' to a spike, thence S. 28 degrees 32' W. 97 feet to land (cont't)

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy Frontiero, Presevation Planner, with Thomas J. Morgan, Consultant

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 6, 1982

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 Ann Talmage

title Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission date September 13, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 10/21/82

for Alison Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

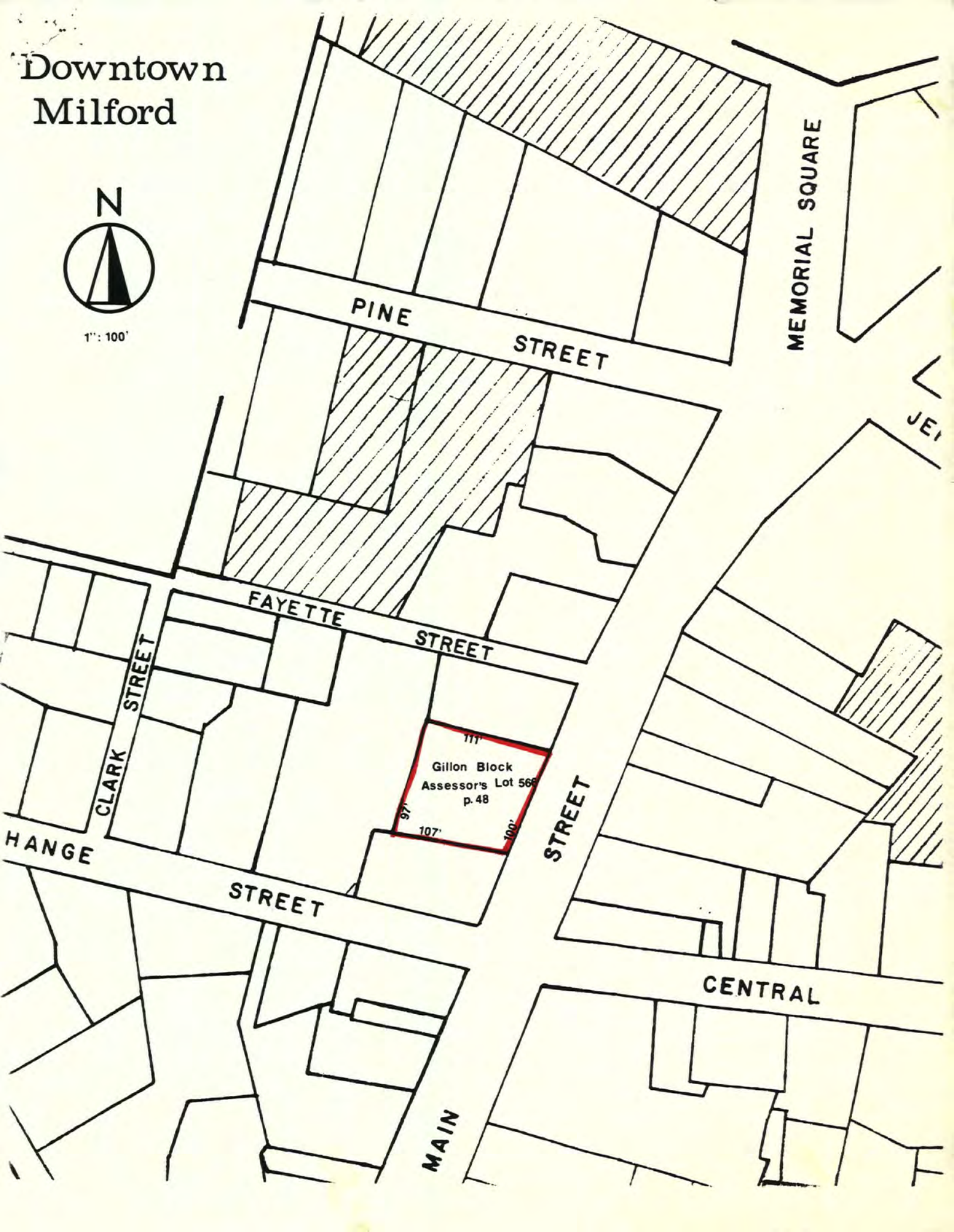
Continuation sheet Milford, Gillon Block Item number 10 Verbal Boundary Page 1

formerly of Newcombe, thence Easterly 107' along land formerly of Newcombe to Main Street, thence NE 100' along the westernly line of Main Street to the point of beginning. The nomination is confined to the present lot and the building is not part of a proposed historic district.

Downtown Milford



1" = 100'



PINE STREET

MEMORIAL SQUARE

FAYETTE STREET

CLARK STREET

STREET

Gillon Block
Assessor's Lot 568
p. 48

111'

97'

107'

100'

HANGE

STREET

CENTRAL

MAIN

JEI

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Gillon Block
Worcester County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 9/21/82-2476
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 10/21/82 - 11/5/82
Action: ACCEPT 10/21/82
Entered in the RETURN
National Register REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

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	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

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		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS 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: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



SARKISIAN
REALTY
builder • developer

DR. ILLIAN W. SHORT
ORTHODONTIST

Women's store

JENNIE'S
GAITHERS

MIRIAM'S
BOOK & PLATE SHOP

RITTS

NO
TURN
IN PED.

Gillon Block March
189 Main St. 1982
Milford, MA

Photo: Tom Morgan
Negative: 50 Federal St.
 Boston, MA
 (617) 542-1006

Photo # 1014
Looking NW at south & east
elevation of Gillon Block



Gillon Block
189 Main St.
Milford, MA

March
1982

Photo: Tom Morgan
Negative: 50 Federal St.
Boston, MA
(617) 542-1006

Photo # 2014
Looking west down second
floor north corridor

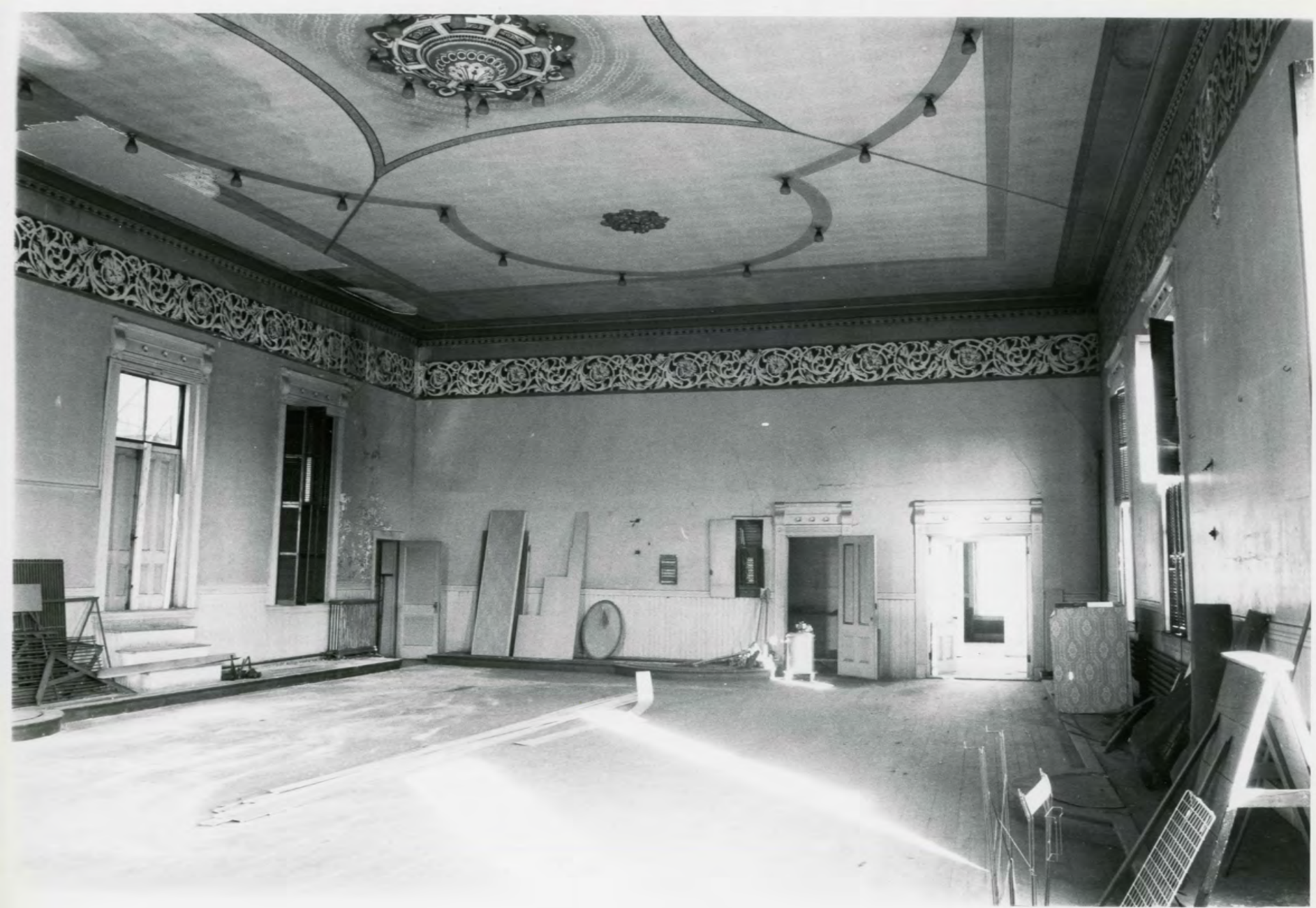


Gillon Block
189 Main St.
Milford, MA

March
1982

Photo: Tom Morgan
Negative: 50 Federal St.
Boston, MA
(617) 542-1006

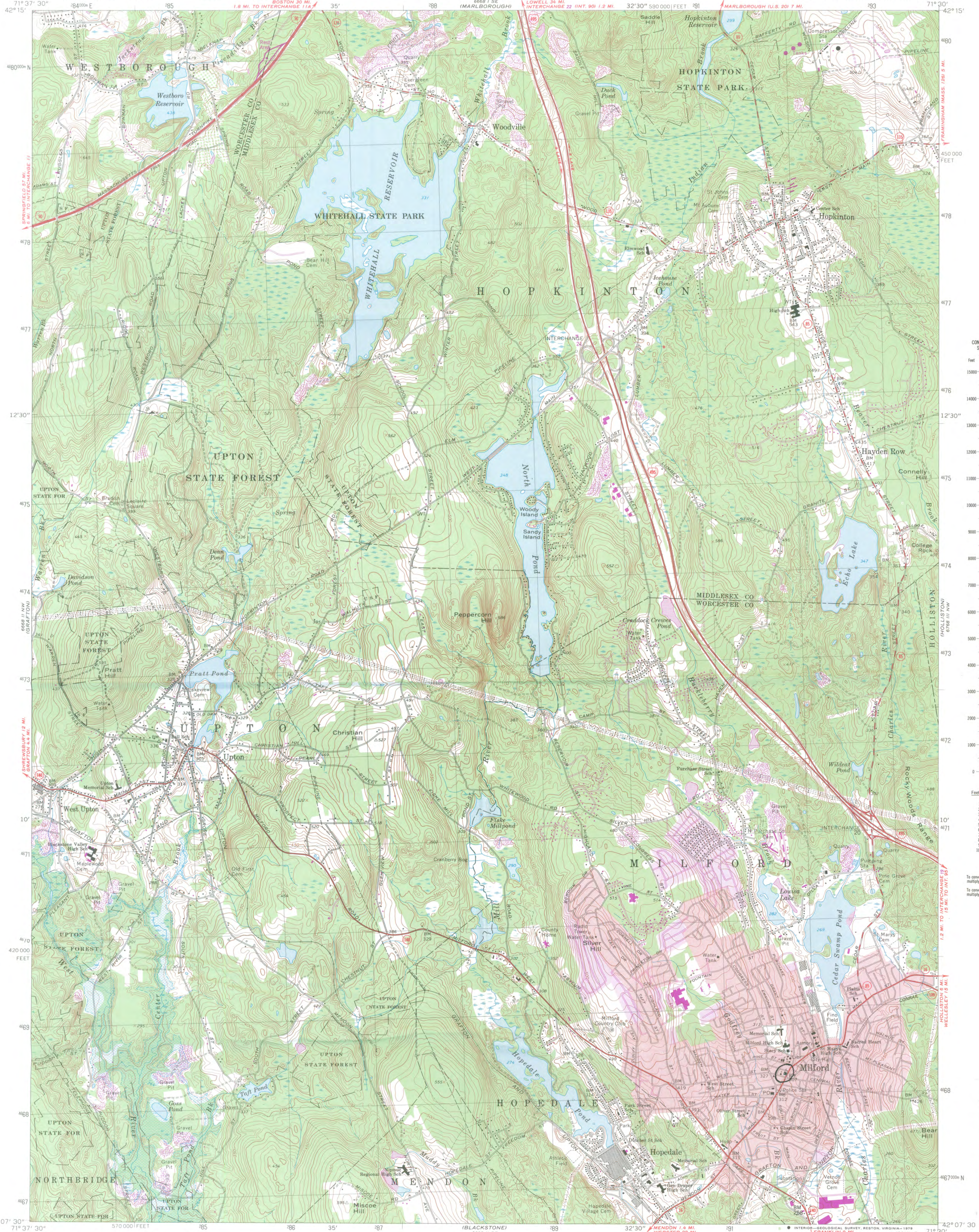
Photo # 3014
The Blue Room looking west
(originally Temperance
Hall)



Gillon Block March
189 Main St. 1982
Milford, MA

Photo: Tom Morgan
Negative: 50 Federal St.
 Boston, MA
 (617) 542-1006

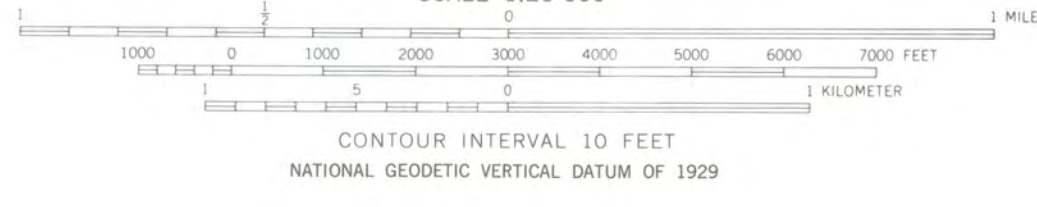
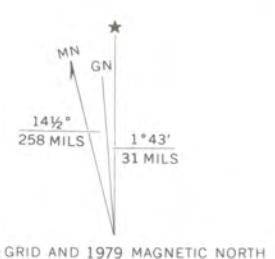
Photo # 4 *014*
The Rainbow Room looking E.
(originally Red Men's Hall)



To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.305
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

UTM Reference:
19/291680/468240

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1942-1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
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
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Area covered by dashed light-blue pattern is subject to
control by West Hill Dam
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route
State Route



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
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

MILFORD, MASS.
N4207.5 - W71307.5
1968
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6668 II NE-SERIES V814



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

September 14, 1982

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Attleboro:	Herbert A. Sadler House (local)
Boston:	10 Liberty Square Building (local)
Boston:	Wigglesworth Building (local)
Falmouth:	Wood's Hole School (local)
✓ Milford:	✓ Gillon Block (local)

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Candace Jenkins

Candace Jenkins
Registration Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CJ/sac

enclosure

SEP 23 1982