

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

APR 9 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Berger Factory

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

37 Williams Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Suffolk

CODE

025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

School House Associates

STREET & NUMBER

50 Franklin Street

CITY, TOWN

Boston

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Pemberton Square

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

X EXCELLENT

—GOOD

—FAIR

~~124 97 100~~
—DETERIORATED

—RUINS

—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED

X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE

—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Berger Factory is located on Williams Street in Roxbury between Shawmut Avenue and Washington Street. It is a few blocks away from the Dudley Station commercial and transportation center.

The main block of the Berger Factory, constructed in 1902, is a three-story brick structure, measuring approximately 100' x 45'. The ~~one~~-story brick wing added in 1907 is approximately 60' x 40' and forms an ell with the main block. Both sections have flat roofs. The Berger Factory is simple but well proportioned, a typical factory building of its period.

The facade faces southwest on Williams Street and consists of three stories and a basement. There is no door on this side. Each floor has a band of ten windows; those of the first and second floors have stone sills and segmental brick arches, and those of the third floor have stone sills and lintels. All are eight over eight. The bay at the extreme left contains stairs and is differentiated from the rest of the facade in several ways. There is one window at the first floor level (four over four), which has a stone sill and segmental arch, and there is a round window at the third-floor level. Between the two, the Berger Factory sign is displayed at right angles to the building. At second and third-floor level, there are two brick pilaster strips, and there is corbelled brick detailing near the cornice and at the base of the pilaster strips.

The courtyard elevation of the original wing has two doors at either end. They are of different types and are at slightly different levels: one has a segmental brick arch and the other a heavy cast stone lintel (not original). On the third floor level, there is a door with a bracket to support a pulley for hoisting up freight. The windows are of the same type as on the facade but vary in size.

The other elevations of this building are of minimal interest and have no significant decorative detail.

There have been no important exterior alterations to the Berger Factory. Currently, it is being converted into housing.

One other structure exists on the Berger Factory site. It is square in plan, measuring 52'x 49'. It is two stories in height, with a flat roof and is constructed of brick and concrete with some timber. It was erected in 1924 and was used for light manufacturing.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☒ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☒ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1902; 1907 BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Moffette; Henry J. Preston

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Berger Factory retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship. It is a typical turn-of-the-century vernacular factory building. Little is known about either George Moffette, the architect of the main building, or about Henry J. Preston, the architect of the wing, except that both practiced in Boston from about 1865 to 1912. The few buildings attributed to them include stores, banks, houses and tentments.

Although the Berger Factory is an attractive building, it is significant primarily for non-architectural reasons. Roxbury has had a long history of industrial development, and the Berger Company was an important part of a late phase of that development.

The Berger Company, manufacturers of engineering and surveying instruments, was founded in 1871 by Christian Louis Berger. Berger was born in Germany and served as an instrument-making apprentice with the firm of Cooke, Troughton and Simms in England.

The firm was first located in downtown Boston and was known as Buff and Berger. In the 1890's, Buff and Berger dissolved their partnership, and the firm was known as C.L. Berger and Sons. In 1902 they moved to Roxbury and built the building at 37 Williams Street, which was occupied by the firm until it moved to Mattapan in 1976.

Before 1871 precision engineering and surveying instruments were nearly all imported from Germany or England. The Berger Company was one of the first American firms to manufacture them, and it quickly became the leader of the field. Berger Instruments were used in the surveying and construction of the Panama Canal and in the construction of many New York City skyscrapers. They were also used in the polar expeditions of Byrd and Perry and in the United State Coast and Geodetic Survey. During World War II, the firm established design level standards for engineering instruments. Berger Instruments were also used at the highest point in North America during Bradford Washburn's expedition to Mount McKinley. Another important use was in the construction of the Boulder Dam and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boston Building Department: Applications for Permits to Build, July 14, 1902 and April 25, 1907.

Telephone interview: Mr. Lyn R. Narins, President, Berger Instruments, 4 River St., Mattapan, Mass. March 5, 1979.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 23,780 sq. ft.

QUADRANGLE NAME Boston South

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 19 328380 4688600

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

E

G

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

F

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached map on which the boundaries are delineated.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Cynthia Zaitzevski, Consultant
School House 77 Associates

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator with

ORGANIZATION

Massachusetts Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

294 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN

Boston

DATE

April 1979

TELEPHONE

(617) 727-8470

STATE

Massachusetts

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Patricia L. Weslowski 1/4/80

TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

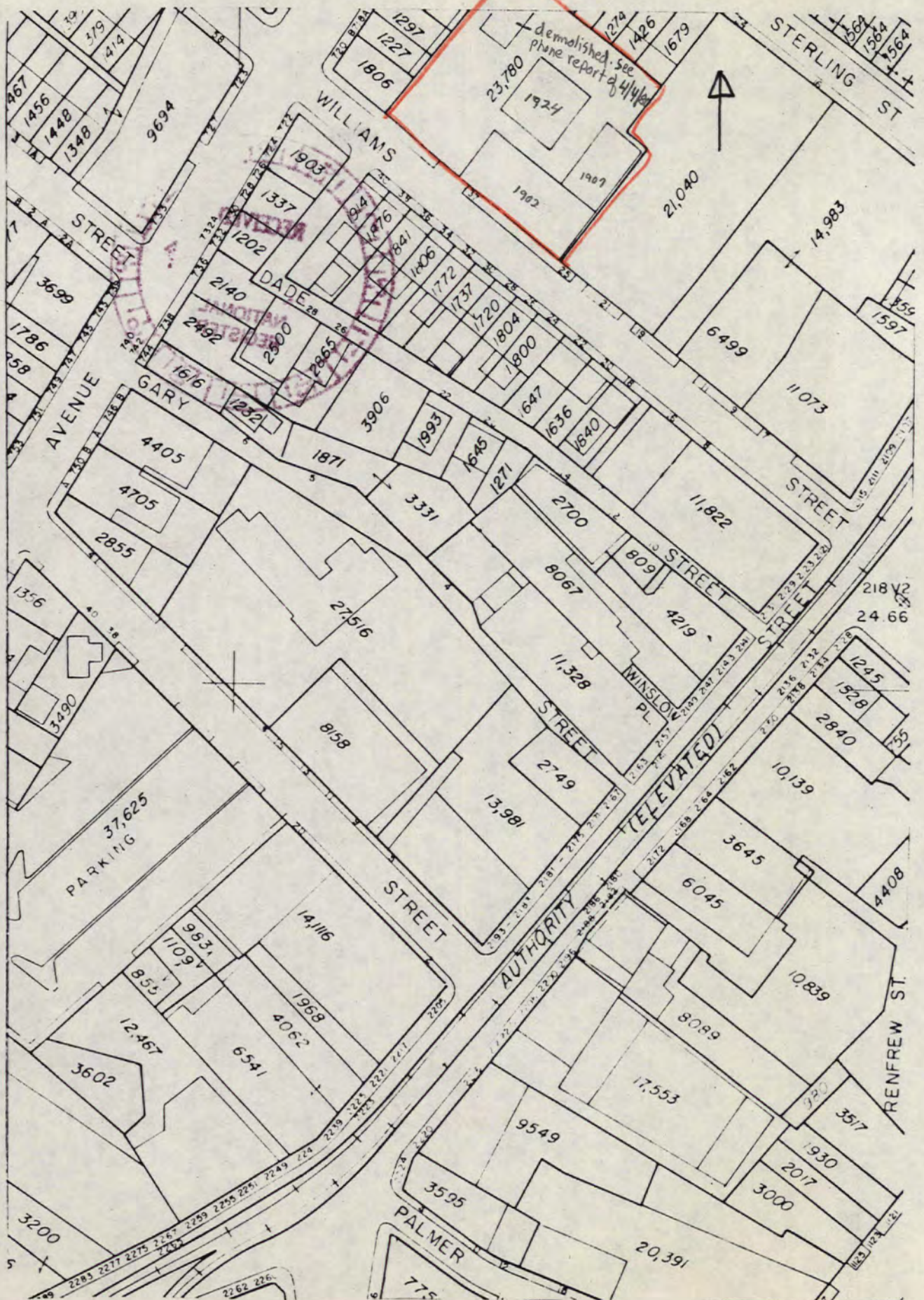
DATE 4/9/80

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4/4/80

Scale 1" = 100'





APR 9 1980

Property

Berger Factory

State

Ma - Suffolk

Working Number

*1-29-80 307**ref no E0000677***TECHNICAL****CONTROL**Photos 2Maps 2**HISTORIAN**

Built in 1902 (with a 1907 ell) this typical vernacular ^{brick} factory building is eligible for engineering, exploration, and industry. Built by a German immigrant, the Berger factory was one of the first American firms to build precision engineering and surveying instruments. Berger instruments were used in the surveying and construction of the Panama Canal, Boulder Dam, T.V.A., Byrd & Perry's polar expeditions, etc. Berger was responsible in great part for freeing America from having to import such instruments from Germany. Along with the 2 story factory is a smaller brick bldg (see phone report of 4/4/80)

accept
Patrick Andrews
4/4/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**ARCHEOLOGIST****OTHER****HAER**

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**BRANCH CHIEF****KEEPER**

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered 4/9/80Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit _____



C.L.
BERGER
& SONS, INC.
ENGINEERING
SURVEYING
INSTRUMENTS

NO PARKING
MAY 1-31
EXCEPT BY
PERMIT

E.G.

Berger Factory
Boston, Mass.

Suffolk Co.

Randolph Phoulds 1978
144 Moody St., Waltham, Mass.

Photo #1 of 2

View from Williams St. looking northwest

APR 9 1980

JAN 29 1980



General
Hi 5-6430

C.L.
BERGER
& SONS INC.
ENGINEERING
and SURVEYING
INSTRUMENTS

TREASURY

Berger Factory
Boston, Mass.
Randolph Phoulds 1978
144 Moody St., Waltham, Mass.

Photo #2 of 2 *Suffolk Co.*
View from Williams St. looking east

APR 9 1980

JAN 29 1980

Berger Factory
Boston, Mass.

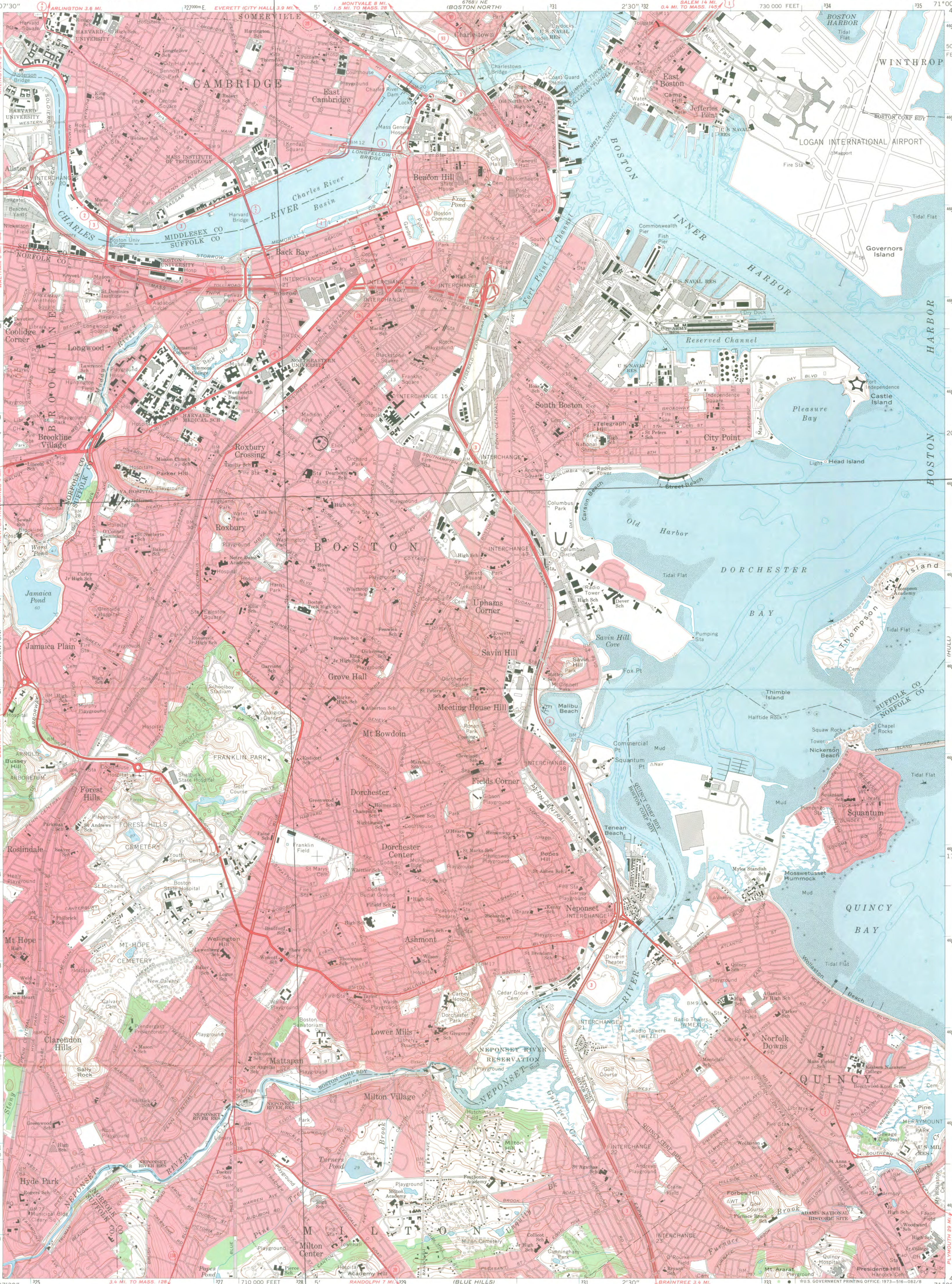
UTM REFERENCES:
19/328380/4688600

Berger Factory

INVERTED
688 11 W

APR 9 1980

RECEIVED
JAN 23 1980
NATIONAL
REGISTER

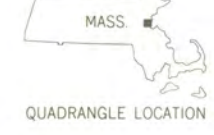


Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational
purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 19, shown in blue
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

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
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215-W7100/7.5
1970
AMS 6768 1 SE-SERIES V814

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

DATE

4/3/80

TELEPHONE REPORT

TIME OF CALL

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Candy Jenkins

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Mass. S.H.P.O.'s office

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Berger Factory - Suffolk Co. MA.

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

I asked her to try to find out some more info. on the 2d building - was it built by the Berger firm? was it related to the precision instrument business?

Also, there appears to be a third building on the map. What is this?

4/4/80 - on the 2d building she can add little info. other than that it was built by the Berger firm. She has not been able to ascertain what sort of light manufacturing was involved in this building.

There once was a third structure on the lot - it was demolished years ago.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

TITLE

OFFICE

Patrick Andrews

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered

APR 9 1980

Name

Location

Echo Bridge	Town of Needham, City of Newton Norfolk and Middlesex County
Swetland-Pease House	East Longmeadow vicinity Hampden County
Rice, Capt. Peter, House	Marlborough Middlesex County
First Baptist Church	Framingham Middlesex County
Oakes, Edward, House	Medford Middlesex County
McGill, John H., House	Medford Middlesex County
Dillaway School	Boston Suffolk County
Berger Factory	Boston Suffolk County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy
Honorable John J. Moakley
Honorable Robert F. Drinan
Honorable Edward P. Boland
Honorable Joseph D. Early
Honorable Edward J. Markey

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR

Byers/bjr 4/17/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.