



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 80000458

Date Listed: 12/9/1980

Property Name: Piano Row Historic District

Multiple Name: Boston Theater MRA

County: Suffolk

State: Massachusetts

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Anderson
Signature of the Keeper

12/5/2017
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued at the request of the Massachusetts state historic preservation office to make a technical change to the nomination to clarify the boundary of the historic district. The National Register of Historic Places Registration form is amended to clarify that the boundary of the Piano Row Historic District extends beyond the front facades of the buildings out to the curbs of the streets.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Form numbers in this area	Area no.
TH-12 to TH-40	C

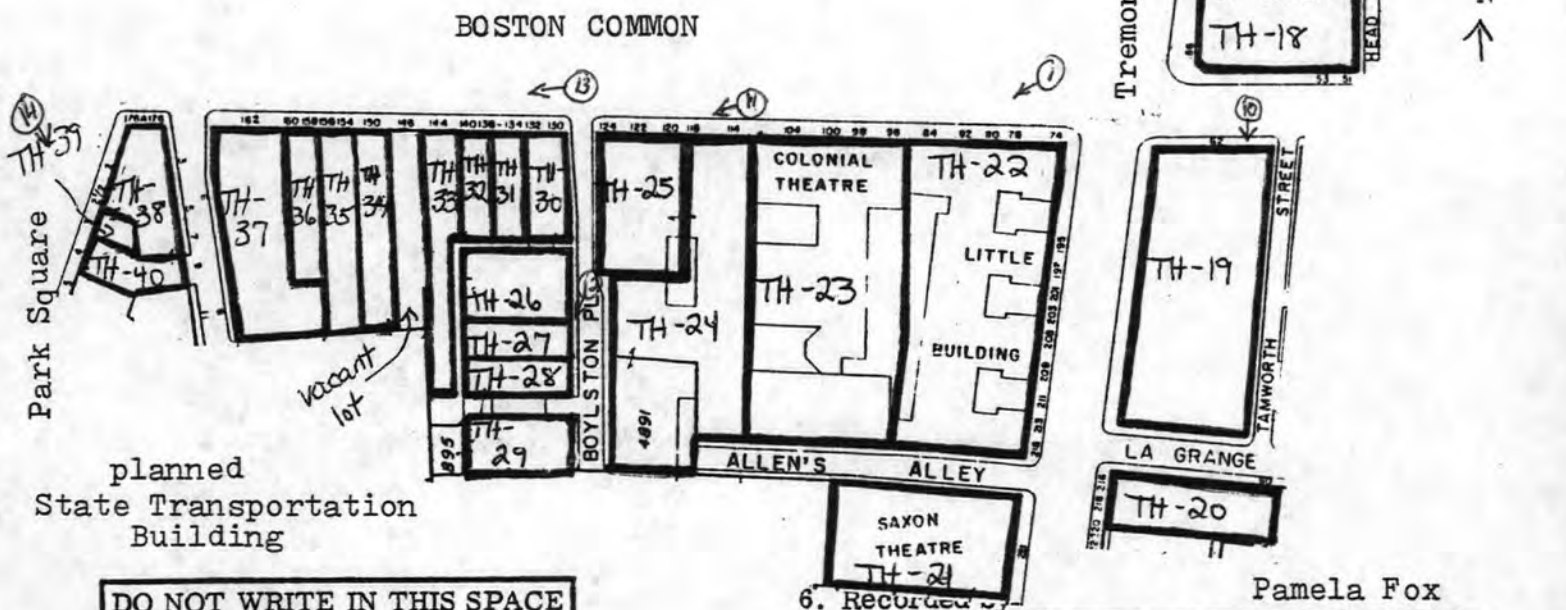
2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number _____

1. Town Boston (CBD-Theatre)
Name of area (if any) Piano Row District

3. General date or period late 19th and early 20th century

4. Is area uniform (explain):
in style? no (turn-of-the-century styles)
yes (well-
in condition? maintained
yes (private)
in type of ownership?
no (residential)
in use? (commercial/institutional)

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using their numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____
MHC Photo no. _____

6. Recorded by Pamela Fox
Organization Boston Landmarks Commission
Date June, 1979

NOV 7 1980 (over)

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

8. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheets, Section 9

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property see individual and area forms

Quadrangle name Boston South

Quadrangle scale 1"=25,000'

UMT References

A

1	9	3	2	9	9	4	0	4	6	9	0	6	5	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 southern boundary of the Theatre Area starts at a point on Washington St., 520' south of the intersection of Kneeland & Washington. From this point it runs due west along an arbitrary straight line to a point on Charles St. South 442' south of Stuart Street. From thence it follows Charles St. South one block north to the intersection of Stuart St.,

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 Candace Jenkins, Registration Director by Pamela Fox
Boston Landmarks Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date _____

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

city or town Boston, state MA 02108

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Patricia W. Weslowki date 10/20/80

title _____ date _____

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

John W. Ray Luce date 12/9/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Patrick Andrews date 12/4/80
 Chief of Registration



Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

NOV 7 1980

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979
Negative at Boston Landmarks
Commission, Boston, MA

DEC 9 1980

Photo #1 of 15 Little Bldg. and
Colonial Bldg. (Piano Row) 74-94 and
96-106 Boylston St.

Little and Colonial Bldgs (Piano Row) 74-94 & 96-106 Boylston St, Boston MA



Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commis-
sion, Boston, MA

Photo #8 of 15, Piano Row, 174-186
Tremont St. and 62 Boylston St.

DEC 9 1980
NOV 7 1980

Piano Row, 174-186 Tremont & 62 Boylston Sts, Boston MA



TOW ZONE
LOADING ZONE
TRUCKS
NO STANDING
7AM - 9:30AM
4PM - 6PM

TOW
N
STA
AN

Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commis-
sion, Boston, MA

Photo #9 of 15, 176-186 Tremont St.
(Piano Row)

NOV 7 1980

DEC 9 1980

Piano Row
Streetscape, 176-186 Tremont St, Boston MA



Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commis-
sion, Boston, MA

NOV 7 1980
DEC 9 1980

Photo #10 of 15, Hotel Touraine, 62
Boylston St, Boston, MA (Piano Row)

Hotel Touraine, 62 Boylston St, Boston MA (Piano Row)



COLONIAL

CVS

CVS

BOSTON
MUSIC
CO. INC.

Shawmut Bank

Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

DEC 9 1980

NOV 7 1980

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commis-
sion, Boston, MA

Photo #11 of 15, Walker Bldgs, Piano
Row, 114-116 and 120-124 Boylston St.
Boston, MA

Walker Bldgs, Piano Row
114-116 and 120-124 Boylston, Boston MA.



Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commis-
sion, Boston, MA

Photo #12 of 15, Piano Row, 3-6
Boylston Place

DEC 9 1980

NOV 7 1980

Piano Row, 3-6 Boylston Place, Boston MA



THE BOSTON REPERTORY THEATRE

Shawmut Bank

Shawmut
Boylston

deli

ORGAN'S

CARL FISCHER MUSIC

STEINWAY

LUGGAGE

Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commis-
sion, Boston, MA

Photo #13 of 15, Streetscape, 130-162
Boylston St., Piano Row

NOV 7 1980

Piano Row

Streetscape, 130-162 Boylston St, Boston MA



COMMON
GARAGE

LUGGAGE

FOTOMAT

FOTOMAT

2

L.J. PEREIRA
TOBACCO

Eddie's
FAMOUS STEAK SUBS
PIZZA

JACK'S JUNE SHOP

BOYLSTON S

NO U-TURN

Boston, MA
Historic Resources of the Boston
Theatre Area

NOV 7 1980

Pamela Fox, April & May, 1979
Negative at Boston Landmarks Commis-
sion, Boston, MA

Photo #14 of 15, Piano Row District,
2-4 Park Square

DEC 9 1980

Piano Row
2-4 Park Sq.



Piano Row District

Boston Theater MRA

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000272

Property Boston Theatre Multiple Resource Area

DUE
1/7/81

State MA, Suffolk Working Number H. 7, 80, 2781

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 11
Maps 13

HISTORIAN

accept
Patrick Andrews
12/4/80

This multiple resource area is significant for the quality of its architecture and for its association with the development of the important Boston music industry and growth of the theater/movie house industry. The district's and individual buildings achieved significance between c. 1890 and the 1930's - contained in this M.R.A. are significant groups of late 19th/early 20th cent. commercial buildings, the center of the music industry (especially piano manufacturing) and examples of every kind of theater that developed in Boston in this period. This is a good multiple resource nomination - they have included all the required categories of information.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2.2.82

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered DEC 9 1980

Bartebian Inc.

Collector & Importer
Colonial & Oriental / Antiques & Marks of Art

160 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02116
423-0266

RECEIVED

SEP - 5 1980

MASS. HIST. COMM.

September 4, 1980

Ms. Patricia Weslowski
State Historic Preservation Officer
294 Washington Street, Boston, Ma. 02108

Dear Ms. Weslowski;

We were delighted to hear that "Piano Row" is to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in order to preserve as much of the character of old Boston as possible, especially facing the parks.

The building we now own (160 Corp.) at 160 Boylston Street was very elegant in its prime, with fine Grecian molded ceilings two stories high, accented with gold leaf, and inset with panels of blue sky and white clouds.

In time the building has been altered to four stories from six with solarium on the roof, and an addition has been made in the back yard to extend each floor. We have a picture of the original building before alteration by Baldwin Piano and former owners that shows it to be quite different, with bay windows and Repousse metal trim.

The original building has bronze chandeliers hanging down one story, with 6 rows of crystal. The addition has light bulbs incorporated in the acanthus leaf moldings of the ceiling like symphony hall.

Between the two buildings, an impressive Doric colonnade separates the space into 2 open rooms.

NOV 17 1980

with a two level floor separated by a low stairway.

This beautiful architecture should be restored to its original condition and preserved. Unfortunately, a leaking light well between the two buildings has damaged part of the ceiling and stained the walls & floor.

The light well should be covered to divert snow and rain water and prevent further damage before restoration of the ceilings and walls can begin. This will be expensive according to the estimates we have received from several contractors.

If there are federal grants - in - aid, and tax shelters for restoration that will be made available to building owners in "Piano Row," we would certainly like to apply for them to restore this unusual work of art.

If you are in the neighborhood, perhaps you will be able to stop in and see the building in its present condition, and the old picture.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Bartonian

NOV 17 1987

abcd

Action for Boston
Community Development
Inc.

178 TREMONT STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111
TELEPHONE: AREA CODE (617) 357-6000

MASS. HIST. COMM.

Suffolk Co.

September 12, 1980

Patricia L. Weslowski
Massachusetts Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

Dear Ms. Weslowski,

I have received your notification of consideration by the State Review Board of the Theatre District for nomination to the National Register Historical Places and am pleased to see the nomination progressing so smoothly.

As you know, the property at 178-179 Tremont Street is owned by the Action for Boston Community Development Real Estate Corporation, Inc. As Executive Director of ABCD, I would like to indicate our agency's full support for the property being nominated as an integral part of the historic "Piano Row District."

The present location of ABCD is situated in that section of the Piano Row District which saw the evolution of the music publishing business in the United States. 178 - 179 Tremont Street is a 10-story marble Renaissance Revival office building built for the Oliver Ditson Company, which in 1917 was the country's largest music publishing business. The structure is a Boston landmark worth noting.

The historical and architectural significance of the structures composing this district should certainly be recognized and preserved for future generations. The future uses of such structures should reflect a sensitivity to the city's residents from the many varied racial, ethnic, and socio-economic backgrounds which has made Boston a city so rich in tradition.

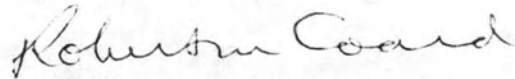
The district under consideration for National Register nomination is in an area that is crucial to the future revitalization of downtown Boston. The obvious advantage of protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historical Preservation on the effect of future undertakings is one that should not be overlooked. The important location of the Piano Row District combined with the natural beauty and uniqueness of the bordering Boston Common make this area extremely delicate and vulnerable to the potential adverse effects of inappropriate future developments. Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places will be one more step to insure that these negative developments do not materialize.

VIVIENNE S. THOMSON, *President*; JEAN M. BABCOCK, *Vice President*; EDRICK BAIN, *Vice President*;
ANNA MAE COLE, *Vice President*; BARBARA CONNOLLY, *Vice President*; STANLEY N. WILLIAMS, *Vice President*;
F. DOUGLAS COCHRANE, *Clerk*; ROBERT H. GARDINER, *Treasurer*; ROBERT M. COARD, *Executive Director*

NOV 17 1980

I thank you for your invitation to comment on the district and I urge the State Review Board to nominate Piano Row District to the National Register of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,



Robert M. Coard
Executive Director

cc: John Drew, Deputy Executive Director
Michael McParland, Director of Administration
John Nucci, Director of Community Coordination

NOV 17 1980



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

March 9, 2005

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Technical clarification, Boston Theatre MRA

Dear Ms. Shull:

This request is regarding a technical clarification for the boundaries of the four districts within the Boston Theatre Multiple Resource Area (12/9/1980), Boston (Suffolk), MA: the Beach-Knapp Historic District; the Liberty Tree Historic District; the Piano Row Historic District; and the West Street Historic District. In keeping with current National Park Service practices, please note that the boundaries of the National Register districts should extend beyond the front facades of the buildings out to the curbs of the streets. Thank you for making this technical adjustment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Cc: Roysin Billett, Boston Landmarks Commission