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Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Massachusetts
COUNTY:	Suffolk
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 1 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Park Street District (use for publication)

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
SAME

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Tremont Street, Park Street, and Beacon Streets

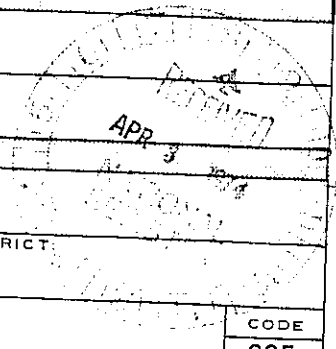
CITY OR TOWN:  
Boston

STATE:  
Massachusetts

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
9th

COUNTY:  
Suffolk

CODE:  
025



**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Cemetery</u>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Public and Private

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Boston

STATE:  
Massachusetts

CODE:  
025

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Suffolk County Court House

CITY OR TOWN:  
Boston

STATE:  
Massachusetts

CODE:  
025

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
(1) Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Massachusetts Historical Commission (617) 727-8470

STREET AND NUMBER:  
40 Beacon Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Boston

STATE:  
Massachusetts

CODE:  
025

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**B. 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)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

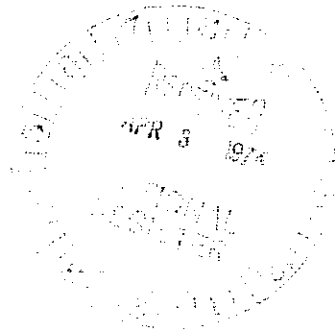
- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | losophy   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian   | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Park Street District is significant as reflecting a plan by Charles Bulfinch to improve the eastern outskirts of the Boston Common and southern approach to the newly constructed State House. By introducing the European system and standards of town planning, he designed a residential block of nine buildings which complimented the new State House and combined two existing urban spaces: the Common and the Granary Burying Ground. Bulfinch's plan was strictly adhered to since he held the post of Chief Selectman which he used to support his architectural and design recommendations. The result, an elegant avenue lined with Federal-style houses, initiated the transformation of the entire surroundings. Residents were some of the most respected leaders of the 19th century, such as: Governor Christopher Gore; Governor Henry Joseph Gardner; Peter Chardon Brooks; George Cabot; Samuel Dexter. The Park Street Church designed by Peter Banner in 1809 solidified the block.

To date, only the Church and the Armory-Ticknor house, 9 Park Street, remain from the original development; yet the principal elements of design set by Bulfinch can still be recognized. The later buildings which replaced the Federal style forbearers have been designed to respect the two original structures located on each corner. A continuity is existant due to similarity in set back, material, height, and scale. The arrangement provides a distinguished architectural frame for the eastern section of the Common and border of the Granary Burying Ground; the church with its commanding steeple still marks the well-known Brimstone Corner from many other parts of Boston. The main feature of this district lies in its unquestionable grace and dignity appropriate for the environment around the State House.

(See continuation sheets #3 & 4)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

Park Street District

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(Number all entries) 7. Description

(2) Park Street Church, 119 Tremont Street

The Park Street Church was designed by Peter Banner in 1809, immediately after the town Granary was cleared from the site. This red-brick church with wooden steeple is in the form of a New England meeting house. The nave extends along Park Street and is marked by tall round headed windows set in embrasures which relate to the Palladian window above the main entrance. The central entry on Park Street is flanked by two bowed vestibules. The most commanding feature is the wooden Wren type steeple which rises 217' above the ground. The steeple with classic ornament is composed of three polygonal belfrys, a small polygonal lantern, and spire.

(3) Amory-Ticknor House, 9-10 Park Street, 22-22A Beacon Street

The Amory-Ticknor House, built in 1804, was originally a large brick Federal style mansion of four stories on the corner of Park and Beacon Streets. The basic cube mass was broken by three stories of rectilinear shaped windows and the characteristic square fourth story windows. A balustrade over the simple dentil cornice concealed the roof. The prominent decorative feature of the front facade (Park Street) consisted of wrought iron balconies around the first and second story windows. Two bay windows set in slightly relieved archways were on each side of the center Park Street entrance, which consisted of a semi-circular fan light with side lights flanking the door. Extending over the entry was an Adam-style porch approached by curving steps with a light iron railing. In 1812, a Greek Revival porch was constructed on the Beacon Street facade to indicate a recent division in ownership.

To date, alterations which occurred during the late 19th century have remained. The ground floor level of both Beacon and Park Street facades was changed by the addition of projecting display windows, leaving only the Park Street porch and steps. Queen Anne style oriels were added to the third and fourth story windows of both facades. The dentil cornice was replaced with a heavy iron cornice and only a small section of the balustrade remains under an addition of three gable dormers to the Park Street roof.

## MINOR ELEMENTS

(6) Union Club, 7 and 8 Park Street

These two red brick structures, both five stories, were united in 1896 by the architect Henry B. Ball to provide the Union Club with larger facilities. To date, the structure appears as one, with similar facade treatment on both units, seven bays wide in total, with continuous wrought iron balconies on the upper stories. Distinction between the two structures can still be observed at the roof line. At 7 Park Street, the fifth story windows are set in brownstone posts and capped by a brownstone balustrade. Number 8 Park Street features a front gable (constructed over two dormer windows) on one side of the roof placed next to two dormers, which still exist from the original design.

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(Continuation Sheet) #2

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(Number all entries)

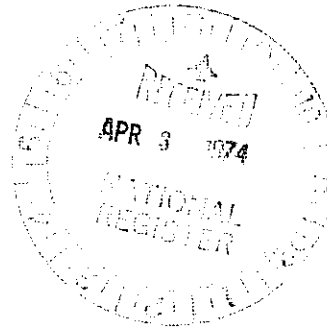
7. Description

(7) Claflin Building, 18-20 Beacon Street

This brownstone structure, designed by William G. Preston in 1883, stands six stories high. The second story windows are set into three prominent round headed embrasures, between which are two small copper medallion portraits of Jan Van Eyke and Albrecht Durer. The three middle stories have oriels flanking paired double hung windows, while the final story is comprised of windows set between brownstone posts.

(8) Congregational House, 14 Beacon Street

This eight story red-brick, sandstone trim building was erected in 1898 from the designs of Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge. The main body of the three bay structure is organized in three round headed embrasures which end with a stone balustrade over a bracketed stone cornice. Four carved stone tablets at the second storey are bas-reliefs of scenes from colonial history which illustrate fundamental principles of religion, education, law and worship.



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(Continuation Sheet) #3

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(Number of entries) 8. Significance

MAJOR ELEMENTS

(1) Granary Burying Ground, 83-115 Tremont Street

The Granary Burying Ground was established in 1660 when the King's Chapel Burial Ground became over-crowded. First called the South Burial Ground, its subsequent name was derived from its geographic location next to the town Granary which stood on the site of the Park Street Church. Within this cemetery are the remains of more distinguished Bostonians of the Colonial era than any other burial ground in the city. Amongst the most eminent buried here are: Peter Fanewil, Uriah Cotting, Robert Treat Paine, Paul Revere, John Hancock, Benjamin Franklin's parents, and the victims of the Boston Massacre.

The designs carved on the major monuments, as well as those on the slate markers of the ordinary citizens, are excellent examples of early New England gravestones and provide an illustrated history of this folk art.

(2) Park Street Church, 119 Tremont Street

In the colonial settlement, the lot of the Park Street Church was occupied by the town Granary, a repository of grain for the poor and needy, located next to the Granary Burying Ground. Its demolition in 1809 provided ample space for the newly founded Park Street Church Society's new meeting house. The resultant red-brick church with its graceful steeple remains a tribute to its English architect, Peter Banner, and his adaptation of a Christopher Wren design. The delicately carved capitals of the steeple are the handiwork of Solomon Willard, architect of the Bunker Hill Monument.

The church has long been associated with important civic, educational, and social issues. During the War of 1812, brimstone, used in making gun powder, was stored in the crypt which lead to the name "Brimstone Corner" for this locality. (However, Boston legend attributes the origin of "Brimstone Corner" to the fervid doctrines preached within the church). In 1829, William Lloyd Garrison gave his first abolitionist address in Boston here. Many well-known societies reflecting important social movements were founded in this church: in 1815, the Handel and Haydn Society of Boston; in 1824, the Prison Discipline Society; in 1826, the American Temperance Society; in 1889, the Animal Rescue League.

(3) Amory-Ticknor House, 9-10 Park Street and 22-22A Beacon Street

The Amory-Ticknor house was the first house on Park Street erected from the plans of Charles Bulfinch in 1804. Designed for Thomas Amory, Esq., a Boston Merchant, it was referred to as "Amory's Folly" because of its unusual size and pretentiousness. Financial losses forced Thomas Amory to dispose of the dwelling soon after its completion and the house was divided into two units to defer expenses. Among the many notable occupants, George Ticknor's residency in the easterly portion is best known. Mr. Ticknor, the author of "History of Spanish Literature" and a founder of the Boston Public Library, remained there from 1830 to 1871.

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(Continuation Sheet) #4

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance

MINOR ELEMENTS

(6) Union Club, 7 and 8 Park Street

The exact date and architect of these two red brick buildings remain unknown. The estate at 8 Park Street was best known in the 19th century as the residence of the Honorable Abbott Lawrence, whose family remained there from 1836 to 1863, when the property was leased to the Union Club.

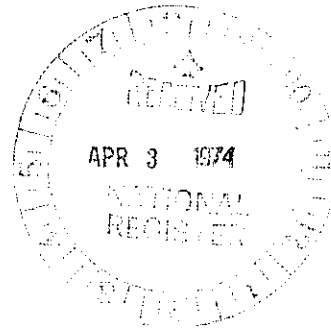
The original property and subsequent estate at 7 Park Street was owned by financier John Gore since 1803. In 1896, after a succession of prominent owners, 7 Park Street was purchased by the Union Club and joined with 8 Park Street. The Union Club was established in 1863 by former members of the Somerset Club who were politically ahorent of the criticism of President Lincoln and his abolition policy.

(7) Claflin Building, 18-20 Beacon Street

The structure was designed by William Preston in 1883 for Governor William Claflin, Governor of Massachusetts between 1869 and 1872. During his lifetime (1818-1905) he was identified with many philanthropic movements and educational institutions including Boston University and Wellesley College.

(8) Congregational House, 14 Beacon Street

The Congregational House was designed by Shepley, Rutan, and Coolidge in 1898 to meet the expanding spatial requirements of the American Congregational Association. The Association was founded in 1853 to gather within one building all the Congregational societies located in Boston and also to establish a library to protect the original Puritan literature.



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(Continuation Sheet) #5

Park Street District

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COUNTY	Suffolk	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
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		MAY 1 1974

(Number all entries)

9. Bibliographical cont'd.

6. Drake, Samuel Adams; Old Landmarks and Historic Personages of Boston, Charles E. Tuttle Co., Rutland, Vermont, 1971.
7. Kirker, Harold; The Architecture of Charles Bulfinch, Harvard University Press, 1969.
8. Kirker, Harold and Kirker James; Bulfinch's Boston, 1787-1817; New York: Oxford University Press, 1964.
9. Lawrence, Robert M.; Old Park Street and Its Vicinity; Boston, 1922.
10. Newton Graphic, Obituary of Governor Will Claflin, Newton, 1905.
11. Photographic Collections: Bostonian Society; Boston Athenaeum.
12. Thorndike, F. Lothrop; Past Members of The Union Club and A Brief Sketch of the History of the Club, Boston, 1893.
13. Whitehill, Walter M.; The Neighborhood of the Tavern Club, 1930-1971, Bostonian Society Picture Book, 1971.
14. Williams, Alex; A Social History of Greater Boston Clubs, Barre, Massachusetts, 1970.

6. Existing Surveys cont'd.

(2)

Title: Historic American Building Survey, Mass.-175; Mass.-631/  
 Date: 1934, 1935; n.d. Federal Survey  
 Depository: Department of Prints, Library of Congress  
 Address: Washington, D. C. 20540  
 Code: 011

