

FORM B - BUILDING

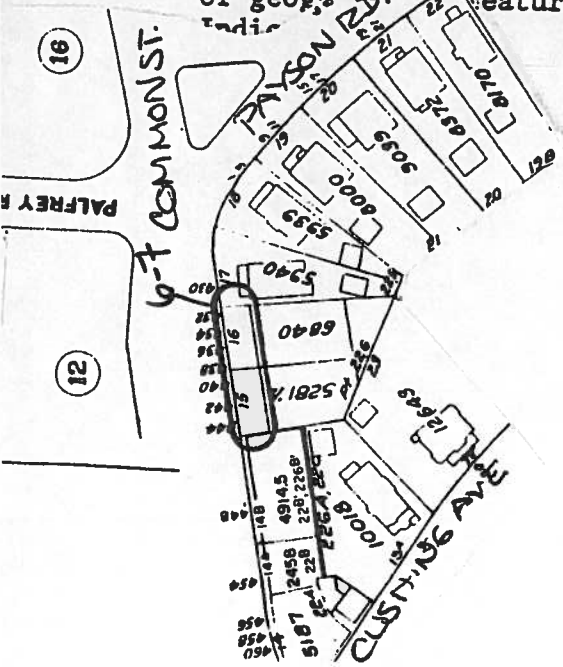
Area <u>C</u>	Form no. <u>6-7</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108



Selmont
ss 432-444 Common Street
 ric Name NA
 Original Commercial block
 Present Same
 ship: Private individual
 Private organization _____
 Public _____
 Original owner Arthur T. Nelson

location in relation to nearest
cross street and other buildings
or geographic features.



OPTION:
 Date 1931
 Source Building permit
 Style Georgian Revival
 Architect Arthur T. Nelson
 Exterior wall fabric Brick, wood trim
 Outbuildings _____
 Major alterations (with dates) _____

 Moved No Date _____
 Approx. acreage 12,122 sq. ft.
 Setting setback approx. twice as great
as that of other Cushing Square store
allows this block to face a "plaza"
(with planters, freestanding sign, et

Recorded by Marcia M. Cini
 Organization Boston University
 Date September 1982

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

The architectural significance of this and several other nearby commercial blocks (See Forms 12-15-1) lies in the clear correspondence between their style or imagery, in this case Georgian Revival, and that chosen for nearby contemporary residential building. It is executed in materials of high quality and expense such as brick, copper and slate. Outstanding stylistic features include a symmetrical presentation emphasized by a prominent center cupola, dormer-like roof vents and parapet "firebreaks" between each of the three sections (a curiously urban feature for a suburban location). Unlike some other less well respected building types (i.e. taxpayers), this block continues to survive in excellent condition and appears to be contributing significantly to the viability of Cushing Square.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

The historical significance of this block of stores lies in its continued survival as a clear and handsome expression of the type of high quality commercial establishment for which Cushing Square became known in the period between World Wars I and II. It is an indication of local prosperity and optimism during that period. Its current appearance (high maintenance level, expensive signage, etc.) suggests that its imagery continues to be the one with which most Cushing Square shoppers' and shop owners would like to be associated.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Cushing Square File, Belmont Room, Belmont Public Library.
Winters, Paul, Building Department. Interview, August, 1982.