

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	BOS.2076
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Merchants Cooperative Bank
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	125-126 Tremont St 11-12 Hamilton Pl
<b>City/Town:</b>	Boston
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Central Business District; Retail;
<b>Local No:</b>	0304754000;
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1955
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival;
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Perry, Shaw, Hepburn and Dean;
<b>Use(s):</b>	Bank; Commercial Block;
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Commerce; Economics;
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials:</b>	Wall: Brick; Iron; Stone, Cut;
<b>Demolished</b>	No



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION Building Information Form Form No. \_\_\_\_\_ Area CBD

124-126  
 ADDRESS Tremont St. COR. 11-12 Hamilton Pl.  
 NAME Merchants Cooperative Bank (same)  
           present                                  original  
 MAP No. 25N/12E SUB AREA Retail  
 DATE 1955 Bldg. Dept. Records  
   source  
 ARCHITECT Perry, Shaw, Hepburn & Dean "  "  
   source  
 BUILDER \_\_\_\_\_  
   source  
 OWNER Merchants Cooperative  
           Bank/  
           original                                  present  
 PHOTOGRAPHS 5 1/6 x 80

TYPE (residential) single double row 2-fam. 3-deck ten apt.  
(non-residential) bank offices

NO. OF STORIES (1st to cornice) 3 plus \_\_\_\_\_

ROOF flat \_\_\_\_\_ cupola \_\_\_\_\_ dormers \_\_\_\_\_

MATERIALS (Frame) clapboards shingles stucco asphalt asbestos alum/vinyl  
 (Other) brick stone trim concrete iron/steel/alum.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION Mid-20th century Georgian Revival commercial building. Palladian motif used for entrance, which is flanked by fluted Doric columns and has a fanlight above. 2nd and 3rd story have narrow side bays flanking a wide central pavillion surmounted by stone triangular pediment set within a brick parapet.

EXTERIOR ALTERATION minor moderate drastic \_\_\_\_\_

CONDITION (good) fair poor \_\_\_\_\_ LOT AREA 4800 sq. feet

NOTEWORTHY SITE CHARACTERISTICS Corner site

In the design of  
 SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd on reverse) 124-126 Tremont,  
 "Colonial" elements such as the Palladian motif, central pediment and side stepped gable imitate the past without capturing the proportions or spirit of the Georgian style. For this reason the building is not architecturally distinctive, although it harmonizes fairly well with the streetscape. The building is still occupied by its original tenant, the Merchants Cooperative Bank.

Moved; date if known \_\_\_\_\_

Themes (check as many as applicable)

- |                           |       |                            |       |                         |       |
|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-------|
| Aboriginal                | _____ | Conservation               | _____ | Recreation              | _____ |
| Agricultural              | _____ | Education                  | _____ | Religion                | _____ |
| Architectural             | _____ | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/<br>invention   | _____ |
| The Arts                  | _____ | Industry                   | _____ | Social/<br>humanitarian | _____ |
| Commerce                  | _____ | Military                   | _____ | Transportation          | _____ |
| Communication             | _____ | Political                  | _____ |                         |       |
| Community/<br>development | _____ |                            |       |                         |       |

Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Preservation Consideration (accessibility, re-use possibilities, capacity for public use and enjoyment, protection, utilities, context)

Part of suggested "Pre-Fire "Mercantile" National Register District.

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

**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET  
BOSTON CBD SURVEY UPDATE**

**ADDRESS ON BLC BUILDING INVENTORY FORM:**  
124-126 Tremont Street

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area      Form No.  
CBD      BOS.2076

**EXISTING STATE REGISTER DESIGNATIONS**

DESIG CODE	DATE	NAME
none		

**MAJOR CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS TO PAGE 1 BASE INFORMATION**

Assessors Parcel ID: 0304754000  
Assessors Address: 126 Tremont Street

**ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The brick building has stone trim with two band courses defining the first story. The central bay projects shallowly from the facade; five ribbon windows on the second level are fronted by a decorative iron balcony. The north elevation is five bays deep with a gable parapet containing a roundel between two chimneys.

**ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Perry, Shaw, Hepburn Dean, Boston-based architects who were proponents of the Colonial Revival style, are best known for the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. The firm designed the Liberty Mutual Insurance Co. Building (1937, BOS.2363), Aldrige and Kresge Halls at Harvard Business School (1953, BOS. 8365 and BOS.8350), and the Jordan Marsh Department Store (1948, BOS.2120), whose design was described by architectural historian Douglass Shand-Tucci as "absurd Modernistic-Federal Revival style".

In 1990 the Bank of Boston assumed responsibility for the assets of the failed Merchants Cooperative Bank.

Although a minor example of its period and of its designers, the building is carefully composed, retains a handsome original storefront, and contributes to the streetscape in massing, materials, and an active ground floor.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Shand-Tucci, Douglass. *Built in Boston; City and Suburb, 1800-2000*. (revised and expanded edition) Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 1999.  
Boston city directories. 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970.  
*The Boston Globe*, May 19, 1990.

**Recorded by:** W. Frontiero and L. Smiledge

**Organization:** BLC

**Date:** June 2009

*Continuation sheet 1*

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**SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES and LOCATIONAL INFORMATION**



**Assessors Map**



**Tremont Street Facade**



**Storefront Detail**