

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Inventory No:</b>           | BOS.1875   |
| <b>Historic Name:</b>          | Appleton, Samuel Building  |
| <b>Common Name:</b>            |  |
| <b>Address:</b>                | 1 Liberty Sq<br>1-11 Batterymarch St, 110-114<br>Milk St and 70-72 Kilby St            |
| <b>City/Town:</b>              | Boston   |
| <b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>   | Central Business District;<br>Financial;   |
| <b>Local No:</b>               |  |
| <b>Year Constructed:</b>       | 1924   |
| <b>Architectural Style(s):</b> | Classical Revival;   |
| <b>Architect(s):</b>           | Coolidge and Shattuck;   |
| <b>Use(s):</b>                 | Abandoned or Vacant; Business Office; Commercial Block; Hospital; Professional Office; |
| <b>Significance:</b>           | Architecture; Commerce; Health Medicine;   |
| <b>Area(s):</b>                |  |
| <b>Designation(s):</b>         | Nat'l Register DOE (08/07/1986);   |
| <b>Building Materials:</b>     | Roof: Tar, Built-up;<br>Wall: Granite; Limestone; 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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*being rehabbed*

BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Building Information Form Form No.            Area CBD



ADDRESS 110-114 Milk St. COR. 1-11 Battery  
70-72 Kilby  
Liberty Square

NAME Samuel Appleton Building (same)  
present original

MAP No. 25N/13E SUB AREA Financial

DATE 1924-26 Building permit 2/28/1924  
source

ARCHITECT Coolidge & Shattuck (permit).  
source

BUILDER (can't read on permit)  
N.E. Trust Co, source

OWNER Trustees for Employers  
Liability Assur. Corp /  
original present

PHOTOGRAPHS 3 1/4 \* 80, 28 1/2 \* 80

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

NO. OF STORIES (1st to cornice) 13 plus           

ROOF flat cupola dormers

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

BRIEF DESCRIPTION Monumental freestanding Classical Revival office building, total of 20 bays along curved facade and 7 on Milk. Liberty Sq. entrance accented by stone entablature with shallow, free classical ornament incl. large medallion w/ goddess & shield inscribed "In Omnia Paratus." "Samuel Appleton Building" inscribed on band above level 2. Banding serves to divide bldg. horizontally into thirds. Stone dentil cornice

EXTERIOR ALTERATION (minor) moderate drastic and parapet ornamented with lions heads & palmettes.

CONDITION (good) fair poor (vacant) LOT AREA 13,557 sq. feet

NOTEWORTHY SITE CHARACTERISTICS Freestanding, irregularly shaped building which curves at Liberty Square. Main entrance to first floor business offices is at Liberty Square. entrance to elevator lobby is on Milk St.

SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd on reverse)

The Samuel Appleton Building is significant as one of the city's finest examples of the flat Classical Revival style of the mid-1920's, notable for its intact quality (both exterior and interior), bas relief detailing, unusual curved shape and commanding street presence. The building was designed by a leading Boston architectural firm and served for nearly 50 years as the headquarters for one of the major insurance companies in Boston.

*revised to III, FS.  
 by BLC 7/82*

PF (June, 1980) NRD/c

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

Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Erected for the Boston branch of the London-based Commercial Union (C.U.) Assurance Co., the building is named for Samuel Appleton, the first general agent and later head of the company in Boston. Appleton was born in New York in 1846 and began his career in insurance at age 16.<sup>1</sup> He was president of the Manufacturer's Fire and Marine Insurance Co. from 1882 to 1886, when the firm was financially devastated by a major fire. Appleton then became the first U.S. general agent for the Employer's Liability Assurance Corp. Ltd, a division of C.U. In 1886 the company introduced into the U.S. the first employers' liability policy, a forerunner of workman's compensation. In 1899, C.U. wrote its 1st auto liability policy.<sup>2</sup> Under Appleton's leadership, the Boston firm became one of the leading liability insurance companies in the nation. At his death a few month's before the building opened in 1926, Appleton was chairman of the board of the 3 major divisions of C.U.: Am. Employer's Insurance Co, Employer's Liability Assurance Corp. Ltd of London and Employer's Fire Insurance Co.

Special features of the building included a hospital on the 3rd fl. and suite of executive offices on the top floor with wood paneling & fireplaces. The 6th floor was used for files and remainder of the building for clerical staff.<sup>3</sup>

Fine detailing on the main business floor & executive offices was intact as of Chas. A. Coolidge (1858-1936), one of Boston's more eminent architects, 1977.<sup>4</sup> was co-founder of the firm of Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, successors to the practice of H.H. Richardson. (Some years after the death of the partners, Coolidge

Preservation Consideration (accessibility, re-use possibilities, capacity for public use and enjoyment, protection, utilities, context) (cont. below)\*

- Suggested for further study as possible Boston City Landmark. Pending Designation 10/14/86  
+ Part of suggested "Exchange" National Register District. (also eligible for individual listing.) PENDING LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Present status: C.U. remained at this address until 1973, when it moved to its present bldg. at One Beacon. Bldg. was occupied by Stone & Webster Engineering from 1973-1975 & has since been vacant. Good candidate for readaptive use.

\*Significance (cont) took into partnership Geo. Shattuck, a draftsman in the office for many years. After Shattuck's death in 1925, Coolidge organized a new firm with Henry B. Shepley, Francis V. Bulfinch & Lewis B. Abbott.

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

1. Who's Who in New England, 1916. \*ext. photo & names of contractors and suppliers
2. C.U. Assurance Co. Review of U.S. Operations, 1978.
3. Boston Evening Transcript, 1/1/1924, p. 8.
4. Shirtsleeve Associates, One Liberty Square: Rehabilitation Proposal (B.U. graduate student project, 1977, copy at Boston Landmarks Commission)
5. Achievements of New England Architects. vol. 1, p. 170 (1927) (BPL)\*
6. Architectural Record, July 1926, vol. 60, p. 59-61 (ext. photo, no text)

Achievements of New England Architects & Engineers (1927)



COOLIDGE & SHATTUCK, Architects, Boston  
SAMUEL APPLETON BUILDING, BOSTON, MASS.

**CENTRAL ARTERY/THIRD HARBOR TUNNEL PROJECT**  
**Updated Survey of Historic Resources**

110-14

Milk St.

CBD

Samuel Appleton Building

**LOCATION:**

Map Number: 25-13

Subarea: Central Area

Corridor: secondary

**NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS****INDIVIDUAL STATUS:**
 Individual NR-Listed

 Individual DOE

 Individual NR-Eligible
**DISTRICT STATUS:**
 In NR District

 In DOE District

 In NR-Eligible District

Name of District: Exchange District

*determined by MHC 4/18/90*
**BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION STATUS:**

Landmark Status: Petitioned/Pending

Survey Category: 3fs

BLC District: None

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

**ADDRESS ON BLC BUILDING INVENTORY FORM:  
110-114 Milk Street**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area      Form No.  
CBD      BOS.1875

**EXISTING STATE REGISTER DESIGNATIONS**

| DESIG CODE | DATE | NAME                     |
|------------|------|--------------------------|
| NRDOE      | 1986 | Samuel Appleton Building |

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

Assessors Parcel ID: 0303833000  
Assessors Address: 1 Liberty Square

**ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

**ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Documented projects by Coolidge & Shattuck in the CBD include 9-11 Beacon Street (BOS.1552), 22-44 Broad Street (BOS.1581), 30 Cornhill (BOS.1671), and 110-114 Milk Street (BOS.1875). The nationally-known firm of Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott originated in the office of the illustrious Henry Hobson Richardson, which was established in 1874. The firm was known as Shepley Rutan & Coolidge from 1886-1915; Coolidge & Shattuck from 1915-24; Coolidge Shepley Bulfinch & Abbott from 1924-52; and Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott from 1952-2009. A family-managed practice for generations, the last Richardson descendent and partner retired in 1990. The firm today is an interdisciplinary office with more than 100 employees, known for its healthcare, academic, scientific, courthouse, civic, and corporate design. Earning the AIA Firm Award in 1973, SBRA was commended as "a firm which has produced consistently distinguished architecture since its beginnings almost a century ago." ([www.sbra.com/](http://www.sbra.com/)) MACRIS contains 31 properties designed by Shepley Bulfinch, including academic, residential, and commercial projects.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Fox, Pamela W. and Mickail Koch for The Boston Landmarks Commission. "Central Business District Preservation Study; Part II – Summary of Findings." [1980]

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

**Organization:** BLC

**Date:** June 2009

*Continuation sheet 1*

**RECEIVED**

**NOV 27 2009**

**MASS. HIST. COMM.**

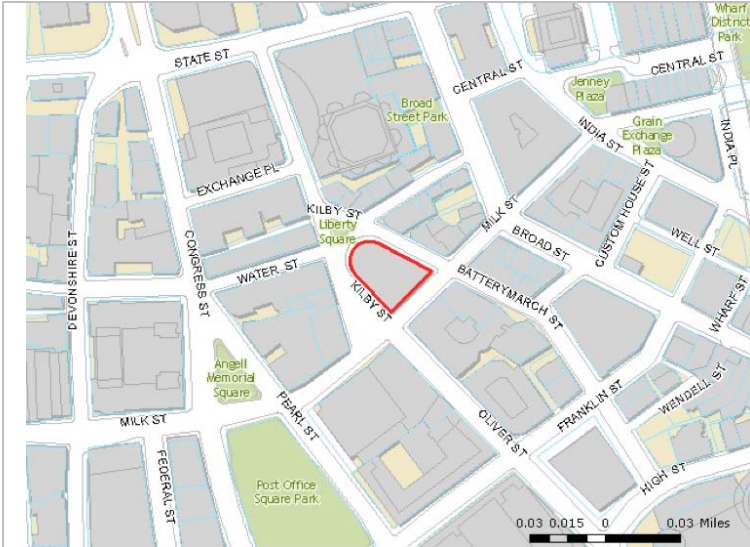
**INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET  
BOSTON CBD SURVEY UPDATE**

**ADDRESS ON BLC BUILDING INVENTORY FORM:  
110-114 Milk Street**

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area      Form No.  
CBD      BOS.1875

**SUPPLEMENTARY IMAGES and LOCATIONAL INFORMATION**



**Assessors Map**



**Ground floor detail – Liberty Square**



**Kilby Street facade**

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

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**National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form**

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible       Eligible **only** in a historic district  
 Contributing to a potential historic district       Potential historic district

Criteria:  **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**

Criteria Considerations:     **A**     **B**     **C**     **D**     **E**     **F**     **G**

Statement of Significance by W. Frontiero

The Samuel Appleton Building earned an individual National Register Determination of Eligibility in 1986, and is officially under study for Boston Landmark designation. The property may also be eligible for the National Register as a contributing structure within the potential Exchange District. The 1980 CBD final report identified this area as "characterized by dignified early skyscrapers in the classical tradition. . . [S]imilarities in building scale, style and materials give the area a distinctive ambience reflecting the pride and essential conservatism of Boston's financial community at the turn of the century."