

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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| Inventory No: | MDF.AG |
| Historic Name: | American Woolen Mill Commercial Area |
| Common Name: | |
| City/Town: | Medford |
| Village/Neighborhood: | Hillside; |
| Local No: | |
| Year Constructed: | |
| Use(s): | Industrial Complex or District; Other Industrial; |
| Significance: | Architecture; Commerce; Industry; |
| Designation(s): | |
| Building Materials: | |
| Demolished | No |



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
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This file was accessed on: Monday, February 6, 2023 at 10:11 AM

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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| N-05, O-04, P-05 | Boston North | MDF. AG | MDF.1026-MDF.1033 |
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Photograph



Town/City: Medford

Place (*neighborhood or village*): Hillside

Name of Area: American Woolen Commercial Area

Present Use: Industrial, commercial and residential

Construction Dates or Period: 1910-1950

Overall Condition: Fair

Major Intrusions and Alterations:
Some demolition and new construction

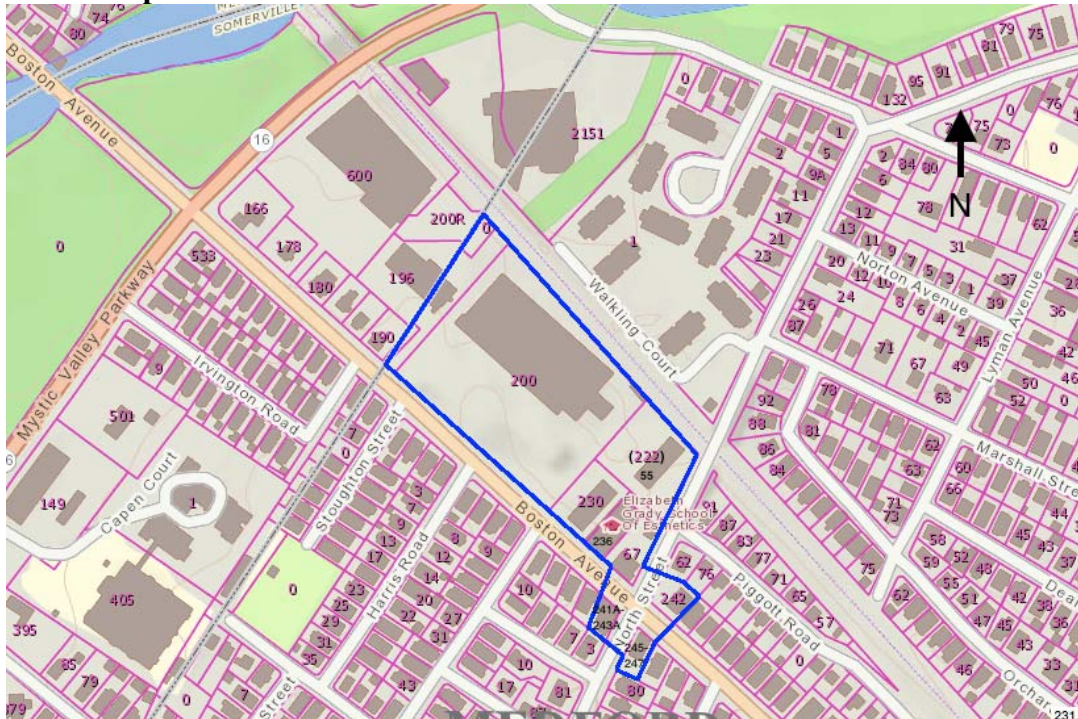
Acreage: 212,824 square feet; 4.39 acres

Recorded by: John D. Clemson

Organization: Medford Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): February, 2014

Locus Map



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X see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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MEDFORD

AMERICAN WOOLEN CO.
COMMERCIAL AREA

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *(see continuation sheets)*

The American Woolen area is anchored by the American Woolen Company industrial complex located at **200 Boston Avenue**. The complex of three surviving of five original buildings straddles the Medford/Somerville boundary near the corner of Boston Avenue and Mystic Valley Parkway. The surviving buildings include 196 Boston Avenue built for the Stone, Timlow Company in 1912 and the reinforced concrete storehouse at 600 Mystic Avenue, the first structure added by American Woolen in 1919. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the former and the latter in its entirety are located in Somerville. This description will be limited the building located within Medford at 200 Boston Avenue. A section of the powerhouse located in Medford and the remaining building in Somerville are the subject of MHC Inventory Form SMV.691. The area includes a second industrial site at **55 North Street** (so identified on the 2005 assessor's map; identified as No. 222 on locus map). The area's industrial development occurred simultaneously with the intense residential development that surrounds it to the south and east along Boston Avenue and the blocks radiating from its intersection with North Street. The residential development is characterized by two-family and three-decker flats sited on minimal lots in a grid street pattern. This intense industrial and residential development spurred the emergence of a commercial cluster at the Boston Avenue/North Street intersection comprised of two commercial taxpayer blocks, one of which survives, one mixed-use building, one commercial conversion and one early automobile-oriented-use building.

The American Woolen Company plant at **200 Boston Avenue**, built in 1921 and since altered, was originally a four-story rectangular manufacturing building, 306x141, with a fair degree of architectural elaboration in the character of the Art Deco movement of the 1920s – 1930s.¹ The building's Boston Avenue façade is composed of 10 uniform bays flanked by more-solid-appearing stair-tower bays framed by masonry pilasters and a pylon-like architrave. Each flanking stair-tower bay is further emphasized by a raised parapet that reads as a flat pediment. Each of the remaining 10 central bays are divided vertically by full-height mullions; this otherwise horizontal elevation is further subdivided every three bays with a more pronounced mullion which passes through the cornice, terminating in what can only be called merlons with pyramid caps (original elevation drawings suggest this feature was not part of the original build). The pattern of each horizontal rank of 10 bays between each projecting mullion is 1-3-3-3-1. Additional massing consists of a single-story arcade with matching finishes extending along the entire southwest elevation

The building has been altered by the addition c. 1994 of a projecting bay that wraps around the south east corner of the building. This addition is finished in a combination of cast stone and brick that largely matches the original building interspersed with sections glass curtain wall. It has been executed in a manner that nevertheless preserves much of the building's original character. All of the windows, which likely originally consisted of rolled steel sash with either casement or louvered openings, have been replaced with aluminum-framed plate glass, but in a small-enough-scaled pattern that it complements the building's original enframements.

The building is sited at a deep setback from Boston Avenue against the rear lot line abutting the Boston & Maine Railroad right-of-way. Period Sanborn atlases demonstrate that this was done in order to give the plant the most efficient access to freight spurs which originally ran across the back of the building and curved to the south west, terminating near Boston Avenue. A more recent detached two-level **parking garage** now occupies the mill yard in front of the building, likely dating from the 1994 alterations. This garage was carefully designed in order that the upper level is close to grade and the lower level, which is half below grade, is obscured by plantings along the property's frontage, thereby preserving the view of the building and historic streetscape.

¹ Peter Stott, "American Woolen Company, 200 Boston Avenue at Medford/Somerville Line," MHC files for the Industrial Archaeology of Greater Boston.

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A second, related industrial building survives as well at **55 North Street** (identified as 222 on the locus map), the **C.L. Erving Soap Manufactory**, constructed between 1910 and 1936. It is similar to 200 Boston Avenue, being in the form of a multi-story rectangular, flat-roofed mass. Although somewhat altered through adaptive use, original components of its minimal original design appear to survive. The building is five stories high. Its North Street-facing façade is thirteen bays and the building is five bays deep. Like the American Woolen Plant each of its elevations is composed of uniform bays, in this case composed of paired double-hung sash, flanked by projecting corner bays. The corner components terminate in a cornice embellished with paired brackets, or corbels, at each end. The building retains its original brick finish, which has been coated in a heavy paint that gives it the appearance of stucco. The original cast-stone window sills, the only other architectural elaboration, survive as well. A monumental classically inspired entrance located between the fourth and sixth bays (south to north) of the south west elevation, composed of a disproportionately deep cornice supported by four Doric-order columns, has been added more recently. An elevator headhouse projects above the cornice in the same elevation.

A much-smaller-scale domestic building is located to the south east of these industrial buildings at the corner of North Street and Boston Avenue at **67 North Street**, the **Curtin-Weymoth-Gillette House**, constructed between 1889 and 1900. Its depiction on period Sanborn Atlases indicates it was a side-by-side duplex that originally faced Boston Avenue at numbers 238-240. It has since been altered into a side entry arrangement facing North Street and a modern, post-1950, single-story storefront, numbered 240 Boston Avenue, has been added to the Boston Avenue frontage. The original house is a two-story, hip-block duplex with a four-bay, double-pile plan. Little of its original building fabric survives. A half-width, hip-roofed front porch shelters the entrance in the left half of the North Street elevation and an enclosed single-story, hip-roofed porch survives in the center of the rear (north east) elevation. The storefront, located directly on Boston Avenue, is composed of two sections: a taller, more substantial-appearing section to the right pierced by a three-quarter-height window wall and abutting entrance recessed into a broad, flat reveal; and a smaller section to the left composed almost entirely of a full-height window wall.

Immediately to the west is among the best-preserved and specialized buildings in the area, the **Boston Avenue Garage** at **236 Boston Avenue** constructed c. 1910. This building is a large-scale, single-story, gable-front garage three bays wide by seven bays deep constructed entirely of rusticated cinderblock laid up in a running-bond pattern. The shallow gable of the façade, sited directly on the street, is further embellished by a corbie-step parapet. The main entrance, which is recessed behind a smooth cast-stone enframingent that almost resembles a proscenium, is composed of a broad double-leaf door capped by a large-scale lit transom that appears to be entirely original. The two symmetrically arranged façade windows, which are single-light aluminum-frame replacements, have cast-stone lintels. The seven bays in each side elevation, composed of paired one-over-one double-hung sash separated by cast-stone mullions and capped by cast-stone lintels, appear to be original. The side elevations are further embellished by projecting pilasters or buttresses that likely perform a structural function. The roof is pierced at the ridge by two hip skylights with air vents, all in copper and completely original (additional later air vents are also located at the corners). A large chimney is located in the rear elevation toward the right (facing front).

Next to the Boston Avenue Garage building to the west, at **230 Boston Avenue**, is a recent commercial building, two-stories high, three bays wide and eight bays deep with a taller decorative corner entrance pavilion. Although the entrance pavilion to this building vaguely resembles the recent alterations to 55 North Street through its reference to classicism suggesting it is affiliated with the other building's tenants, it is currently vacant.

Across Boston Avenue at **241A-243A Boston Avenue** is a single-story taxpayer block that houses three shops constructed 1910-1924. Originally two additional shops fronted North Street toward the rear left corner of the building. The building has been altered in the "Environmental" style popular during the 1970s that includes brick veneer and a rusticated-shingle pent roof that covers the original parapet. The three shop fronts are faced with three-quarter window walls framed in aluminum. The left façade facing North Street has been stuccoed and filled in with the exception of an entrance flanked by two domestic-appearing windows within the rear pile.

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Next to this building, across North Street facing Boston Avenue, is the **Gerrig News Agency and House at 245-247 Boston Avenue**, an exceptionally well-preserved three decker with an early though altered storefront infill addition at the half-basement level, constructed c. 1910. The main house, which is a flat-roofed example employing the common progressive-era plan, retains virtually all of its original building fabric with the exception of what appears to be asbestos shingle siding. These numerous elaborate features include, most notably, a two-story, three-deck front porch supported by monumental square, paneled columns with entasis and a deep bracketed cornice at both the main structure and the top of the front porch. In addition to the full-height polygonal bays located in the right half of the façade and the second pile of the right elevation, the second- and third-story porch deck entrances are further embellished by projecting bow fronts. The house retains its original window and door architraves as well. Although the sash appears to have been replaced, the original single, large-light front door and deck doors survive. The building's interior plan is hinted at by the "piano" window stair lights in the forward pile of the left elevation, indicating the location of vertical circulation spaces. Similar windows in the forward pile of the right elevation indicate the location of the parlors. The shop front that projects from between the basement and first story to fill out the corner of the lot at grade, although altered through the addition of a brick veneer and a pent roof, is a very early alteration and may even be part of the original build, having been constructed between 1910 and 1924. Like many examples, the rear elevation of the house has shallow, covered rear decks. The rear yard includes a rusticated cinderblock four-bay garage with a flat roof that appears to have been constructed shortly after the main house.

The Gerrig House is situated in a well-preserved streetscape of similar three deckers between North Street and Quincy Street on Boston Avenue, including an unusual double example at 253 Boston Avenue. The examples on the south side of the street were sited at an angle to Boston Avenue in order to maximize the land use efficiency along the narrow blocks between North Street and Hillsdale Avenue, which are aligned at the same angle away from Boston Avenue southward.

Across Boston Avenue at number 244 is the site of another taxpayer block comprised of four and five shops, constructed 1910-1924, that has been demolished. The site is currently occupied by what appears to be a recent residential building which is a two-and-a-half story gable-front structure.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

The section of Hillside upon which American Woolen constructed its mill complex and the adjacent commercial and residential area was owned throughout the 18th and 19th century by the interrelated Smith, Shaw, Adams and Felt families. This group of owners included U.S. Presidents John and John Quincy Adams. Originally acquired by Rev. William Smith of Weymouth, MA as an investment during the 18th century, the land passed to members of the Shaw, Adams and Felt families through marriage before being sold to developers after the Civil War. This history, including the area's initial division during the 17th century, is covered in greater detail in the History of Land Use essay connected with this project.

This section of Medford's Hillside neighborhood is adjacent to a small part of Somerville that extends 'into' Medford along the south side of the Mystic River. Like the Medford section, this was apparently primarily pasture until late in the 19th century, though a *Medford Historical Register* article of 1919 suggests that this corner of Somerville was "unsavory"(p. 36) because of its association with a slaughterhouse, tanneries, and the pest-house. Then, in the 1880s and 90s, the "unattractive works of the Colonial Chemical Company," a leather working concern, were added in what the author called "Somerville's appendix" (p. 32). This may be the unlabeled building shown on the railroad spur in this area on Somerville's Hopkins Atlas of 1884. The processing plant was "a menace to adjoining Medford, such as offensive manufactories usually become," and its presence, he contends, "had a retarding influence upon the growth of the Hillside section" (p. 32). The plant was apparently demolished in the 1900s, and in 1912, Stone, Timlow Company built the brick loft building that survives in Somerville; the dates of construction of the power house and the frame factory that formerly were located here is not now known. Shortly thereafter, in 1918, American Woolen purchased the property and built its

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first warehouse the next year, 600 Mystic Valley Parkway (U-Haul in Somerville). This block now also includes a corner gas station at Boston and Mystic Valley and a group of five houses along Boston Avenue, also in Somerville.

Between 1855 and 1872 parcels having belonged to Joseph Barlow Felt and later Lowell real estate developer Daniel Ayer (see development history) encompassing the subject properties had been acquired by Charles Chandler Stevens, who established a dairy farm and household to the south at 87 North Street (see MDF.1008). Stevens (1820-1900) was a successful Boston hide merchant. His land remained largely undeveloped until between 1889 and 1897, when a wood-frame mill building was constructed on the site of **200 Boston Avenue**. This earlier structure was a single-story wood-frame building with an 18' stud height (see image below).² Between 1897 and 1900 this building housed the Walrus Manufacturing Company, a manufacturer of paper boxes and cans, but after 1900 the occupant was a different paper manufacturer, the West Medford Paper Co. The Lee Cycle Co., identified in the period photograph below, was active for a short period of time at the site manufacturing bicycles, as the name suggests.³ By 1910 the building housed Stone, Timlow & Company, who used it for the storage and drying of sheep skins, of which it was a tanner and wholesale merchant.⁴ According to unpublished research by Peter Stott for the Industrial Archaeology of Greater Boston located in the files of the MHC, this building burned in 1920 shortly after being acquired by the American Woolen Company, "organized in 1899 as a merger of eight independent textile mills."⁵ Period Sanborn atlases indicate that the original property encompassing the American Wool Company industrial complex extended to North Street between the Boston and Lowell Railroad and Boston Avenue, suggesting these parcels were originally leased by their later occupants and remained so until as late as 1950 (see below). Stott notes:

After the main building burned in 1920...the company took the opportunity to enter a new field, that of the manufacture of woolen carpet yarn, utilizing the woolen worsted wastes of the various other units of the corporation...Two years later [1921], an even larger 4-story mill, 306x141, was constructed to the south...in the southern building [the subject building] wools were carried through all the processes of manufacture from original grease condition to final culmination as high-grade carpet yarn. The mills were given the name "Riverina" after the fertile district of New South Wales, source of many well-known brands of Australian wool.⁶

The building referred to as "southern" above, known as **200 Boston Avenue**, was designed by W.B. Knowlton.⁷ Winfield Bradford Knowlton (May 17, 1877 – 1931), a native of Lowell, was trained as a draughtsman in the Lowell Public Schools and at the Lowell Textile School. In 1899 he began his professional association with the American Woolen Company, during which he reached the position of supervising engineer, and for whom he designed at least four mill buildings.⁸ These included mills at Shawsheen Village in Andover; Washington Mills in Lawrence; Anderson Mills in Skowhegan, Maine; and Puritan Mills in Plymouth, all constructed during the early 1920s.⁹ He resided for many years at 69 Salem Street in Andover.¹⁰ The building was built by the Turner Construction Co., founded by Henry C. Turner (1872-1954).

Under his leadership, the company expanded its activities to become one of the nation's foremost builders. Mr. Turner, a pioneer in the development of re-enforced concrete in building construction, headed the concern until 1941...Among the buildings erected by the Turner Company are the Lexington

² An image of this building survives in the collection of the Medford Historical Society.

³ Mass. Dept. of Labor and Industries, *The Annual Statistics of Manufactures* (Wright & Potter Printing Co., State Printers, 1896) p. 276.

⁴ For information regarding the owners and operations of Stone, Timlow & Co., which had offices at 263 Summer St., Boston, and who included Albert H. Stone (d. June 18, 1926) and Ernest L. Adams, see *Boston Daily Globe*, July 8, 1926, p. A6.

⁵ Peter Stott, "American Woolen Company, 200 Boston Avenue at Medford/Somerville Line," MHC files for the Industrial Archaeology of Greater Boston.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Mass. Department of Public Safety records, Massachusetts Archives.

⁸ Benjamin F. Arrington, ed., *Municipal History of Essex County in Massachusetts, Tercentenary Edition, Vol. III* (Lewis Historical Publishing Company, New York, 1922) p. 144.

⁹ "The Shawsheen Mills at Andover, Mass.," *Textile World*, Vol. 61 (McGraw-Hill, 1922) pp. 390-391; *The American Contractor* (F.W. Dodge Corp., July 24, 1920) p. 32.

¹⁰ 1920 and 1940 Federal Census.

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Hotel and Tiffany & Co. in New York, the home office buildings of the Massachusetts Life Insurance in Springfield, the Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia and The Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida.¹¹

Locally, the firm built the Second John Hancock Life Insurance Co. Building on Berkeley Street in Boston designed by Hoyle, Doran and Berry; the Cushing General Hospital in Framingham; and the Boston Globe building on Morrissey Boulevard in Dorchester.¹² Among the industrial structures they built in Boston were the Quincy Market Cold Storage and Warehouse building on T Wharf and the Revere Sugar Refinery in Charlestown.¹³ The firm also constructed several academic buildings for Boston University and a chapel and dormitory building for Smith College designed by Geoffrey Platt.¹⁴

By 1936 the plant building at 200 Boston Avenue was occupied by the Russell Box Company; again, its depiction on period Sanborn atlases, which list the owner as the American Woolen Company, suggests the facilities were leased. The Russell Box Company was founded in 1888 in Saugus, Massachusetts by Robinson Y. Russell (1848 - June 27, 1938), a native of Manchester, NH and considered "a pioneer in large-scale paper box manufacturing."¹⁵ It later moved to Lynn in 1900 and again to Chelsea in 1903. After a fire in 1908 the company expanded by rebuilding in Chelsea and opening additional plants in Waltham and eventually acquiring the Medford site. Russell was joined by his son, Waldo B. Russell (1882 – Dec., 1974), a resident of Saugus and Groton. A graduate of Harvard, Waldo Russell had hopes of attending the university's medical school in order to pursue a profession in that field, "but his father...prevailed upon him to enter the family business," where he later rose to president.¹⁶ The locations of the Russell Box Company throughout its history and rise to success suggest its product was closely linked to the New England shoe industry, which was naturally a major consumer of its products.

The Russell Box Company, along with its Medford plant, was sold to the Container Corporation of America in 1944. By 1965 the Medford location of the company housed a design and marketing "laboratory" as well as manufacturing facilities. At the time it employed more than 500 workers earning \$3 million and producing over a million containers a year.¹⁷ The plant was active until at least 1981.¹⁸ In c. 1994 it was purchased by Cummings Properties and renovated for use as commercial loft suites for research and development and laboratory firms. More recently the building underwent the addition of a bank of atriums at each floor at the southwest corner of the building. Records of the office of the Building Inspector of the City of Medford that would identify the architect of the recent addition or its date of construction do not survive.

The second industrial building located in the area, the **C.L. Erving Co., Inc.**, at 222 Boston Avenue, (identified in historic documents as **55 North Street**), a manufacturer of industrial soap, was constructed between 1910 and 1936. Although little could be determined regarding the operations of this company from available records, the 1936 Sanborn Atlas provided some important information, identifying the plant building as a manufacturer "of wool scouring soap and wool oils." The location and presence of such an undertaking made eminent sense given the location and function of its neighbor, the American Woolen Company, which processed wool waste into high-quality carpet yarns (see above under **200 Boston Avenue**). The company was managed and presumably owned by Clifford L. Erving (b. 1896), a resident of Milton at 40 Hawthorn Road (1932) and later 129 Canton Avenue (1940).¹⁹ According to the 1936-1950 Sanborn Atlas the firm remained active until at least the latter date. The building currently houses a franchise of Elizabeth Grady.

¹¹ *New York Times*, Jun. 6, 1954, p. 87.

¹² *Boston Daily Globe*, Jan. 7, 1946 (see also: Douglas Shand-Tucci, *Built in Boston, Revised* (U. of Mass. Press, 2000) p. 223); Jan. 25, 1944, p. 4; May 20, 1956, p. B30.

¹³ *Ibid*, Feb. 8, 1917; May 24, 1917.

¹⁴ *Ibid*, Aug. 4, 1938, p. 19; Jun. 6, 1948, p. C19.

¹⁵ *Boston Daily Globe*, June 28, 1938, p. 15.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, Dec. 4, 1974, p. 49.

¹⁷ *Ibid*, May 23, 1965, p. 72.

¹⁸ *Ibid*, July 12, 1981, p. B21.

¹⁹ 1932 Milton City Directory; 1938 Medford City Directory; 1940 Federal Census.

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According to the 1909 Assessor's maps the **Boston Avenue Garage at 236 Boston Avenue** had been constructed by that time. Although it is not possible to determine the precise nature of this business's operations from available records, it seems reasonable to surmise that it operated largely on the model of a livery stable, storing and maintaining automobiles for owners who lived in the neighborhood and did not have the necessary facilities on their residential properties to store or care for them. Such businesses were common in urban areas and, given the density of the surrounding residential blocks, made sense in the Hillside area as well. The garage was owned by G. White Van Auken and Frank Cavell. Van Auken resided nearby at 28 Harris Road. The garage remained active under its historic name until between 1936 and 1950, when the name was changed to the "Motor Freight Station Co.," according to period Sanborn atlases. No reference to this company could be located through available records, however.

The remaining historic property on the American Woolen Company site is a residential building constructed between 1910 and 1924 that was later converted to mixed-use commercial and re-oriented post 1950, currently identified as **67 North Street** in assessor's records, although historically it was identified as 238-240 Boston Avenue. As depicted on period Sanborn atlases it originally faced Boston Avenue and was configured as a side-by-side duplex. Among its tenants in 1928 was Sullivan J. Gillette, an assistant foreman. Although no direct connection between this figure and the American Woolen Company could be established through available records, his occupation suggests the house may have housed company employees during the 1920s. By 1938, however, tenants were clearly identified as having occupations unrelated to American Woolen or Russell Box companies; at that time tenants included a taxi cab driver, Harold W. Covell, and his wife, Dorothy, and in the other side, at number 240, the widow of Carl J. Symonds, Leah.

At roughly the same time that the northwest corner of the intersection of Boston Avenue and North Street were being developed with the above-mentioned industrial buildings (c. 1910), the blocks on the south side of Boston Avenue and both sides to the east were being rapidly developed with multi-family residential buildings. Within the blocks west of North Street the housing was uniformly two-family houses but to the east, between North Street and Quincy Street, development was uniformly three deckers. An exceptional surviving example of the kind of development that characterizes the surrounding neighborhood is the three decker at **245-247 Boston Avenue**, which falls within the scope of this survey project because it represents an early conversion to mixed-use commercial and residential development. It is depicted on the 1910 Sanborn Atlas, along with its immediate neighbors, as a foundation, providing a precise date for its construction. As late as 1900 the entire block bounded by Boston Avenue, Quincy Street, Capen Street and North Street was owned by members of the Stevens family, including Marcia M. Stevens, Charles C. Stevens and Nancy Mathilda Bowers Stevens, his wife, who were presumably responsible, by themselves or through a trustee, for developing the land (see MDF.1008 and History of Development essay).

The 1910 Sanborn Atlas demonstrates that the subdivision plan developed by Daniel Ayer in 1856, which depicted large 21,500 square-foot lots on two blocks, had been abandoned by Stevens (or his heirs; he died in 1900) in favor of what was actually built, with most lot sizes averaging 4,000 square feet and the larger central block bisected by an additional street, Quincy Street. The projecting single-story store front had been constructed by 1924 and served as the news stand of William Gerrig, who was also a residential tenant. Other early tenants included Patrick A. LeBlanc in 1924 and William G. Kane and his wife, Josephine A; neither listed an occupation.

Between 1910 and 1924 two similar single-story taxpayer blocks had been constructed on the opposite corners of the intersection on the southwest and northeast. The block on the north east corner (not extant) housed a drug store, a grocery, and later, in 1938, a barber, a laundry and the real estate office of Edward E. Marsh. This building was demolished after 1950. The surviving taxpayer block on the southwest corner at **241A-243A/73 North Street**, although heavily altered, is nevertheless worthy of discussion for its role in the social and commercial history of the area. It initially housed the bakery of Mary E. DeLaurier between 1924 and 1928, a grocery owned sequentially by the McLaskey Co. (1924), Bernard D. Baker (1928), and First National Stores, Inc. (1938). Originally there were three shops located fronting North Street at number 73: the office of architect Clifford K. Gillett; the real estate office of Edward E. Marsh between 1927 and 1928; and a shoe hospital owned by Nicholas Spitaleri in 1924 and later by Rocco Derrico between 1928 and 1938.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City of Medford Building Department Records

Directory and List of Residents Eligible to Vote: 1870, 1893, 1895, 1898, 1916, 1918, 1920-1938

Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620-1988 [database on-line] Ancestry.com.

Tax Valuation List: 1876, 1885, 1891

United States Federal Census: 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

H.F. Walling Map of Medford, 1855

F. W. Beers 1875 Atlas, P. 108, Medford Square

1889 Atlas of Medford by George H. Walker Co., Boston

1898 Atlas of Medford by George A. Stadley Co., Boston

1900 Atlas of Medford by George A. Stadley and Co., Boston

Medford Sanborn Maps: 1897, 1903, 1910, 1936, 1936-1950

Medford Assessor's Maps, 1909, 2005

Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street* (Alta Mira Press, 2000)

| MHC# | Assessor's # | Street # | Street Name | Historic Name | Form/Style | Const. Dae |
|----------|--------------|-----------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|------------|
| MDF.1026 | N-05-7 | 200 | Boston Avenue | American Woolen Mill | Art Deco | 1921 |
| MDF.1027 | O-04-110 | 230 | Boston Avenue | N/A | N/A | Recent |
| MDF.1028 | O-04-109 | 236 | Boston Avenue | Boston Ave. Garage | Utilitarian | 1910 |
| MDF.1029 | O-04-99 | 241A-243A | Boston Avenue | DeLaurier Bakery | Modern | 1910-1924 |
| MDF.1030 | O-04-105 | 242 | Boston Avenue | N/A | Col. Rev. | Recent |
| MDF.1031 | P-05-1 | 245-247 | Boston Avenue | Gerrig house and store | Neoclassical | 1910 |
| MDF.1032 | O-04-107 | 55 | North Street | C.L. Erving Co., Inc. | Neoclassical | 1910-1936 |
| MDF.1033 | O-04-108 | 67 | North Street | Gillette House | Indeterminate | 1910-1924 |



200 Boston Avenue, c. 1900, Photograph Collection of the Medford Historical Society.

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MEDFORD

AMERICAN WOOLEN CO.
COMMERCIAL AREA

Area Letter Form Nos.

| | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| MDF. AG | MDF.1026- MDF.1033 |
|------------|-----------------------|



200 Boston Avenue, south elevation



200 Boston Avenue, south elevation

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

MEDFORD

AMERICAN WOOLEN CO.
COMMERCIAL AREA

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| MDF. AG | MDF.1026- MDF.1033 |
|------------|-----------------------|



230 Boston Avenue



236 Boston Avenue, south elevation

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

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|------------|-----------------------|



236 Boston Avenue, north elevation



245-247 Boston Avenue

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|------------|-----------------------|



241A-243A Boston Avenue, 73-73A North Street

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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 John D. Clemson

The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The American Woolen area is eligible for listing both for the degree of preservation of several of its components as well as the significant role it played in the history of the surrounding area as an important industrial site and area employer. The area retains integrity of workmanship, design, materials, association, location, setting, and feeling. It also serves as a representative example of a once common industrial and residential landscape that was prevalent throughout the country during the first half of the 20th century. Both the former industrial site, recently adaptively converted to office use, and the surrounding commercial enclave, exhibit continued economic vitality. Further research will determine whether a historic district should be limited to the surrounding industrial site, which straddles two municipalities, Medford and Somerville, or include adjacent commercial and surrounding residential blocks. The area is expected to undergo increased economic activity due to the growth of a dense and diverse surrounding population of students and neighborhood residents combined with the anticipated construction of the Green Line subway line extension on the site of the Boston and Maine Railroad right-of-way. As the area encounters increased development pressure, a determination of eligibility and listing will provide an additional preservation planning tool to local and regional preservation agencies.