

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	MEL.454
Historic Name:	Larrabee's Brick Block
Common Name:	Hill Building
Address:	500-504 Main St
City/Town:	Melrose
Village/Neighborhood:	Melrose Center
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	Eaton, John F.; Emerson
Architectural Style(s):	Second Empire
Use(s):	Commercial Block; Multiple Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	MEL.C: Melrose Town Center Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (8/16/1979); Nat'l Register Individual Property (3/29/1984)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate; Tar, Built-up Wall: Brick; Wood



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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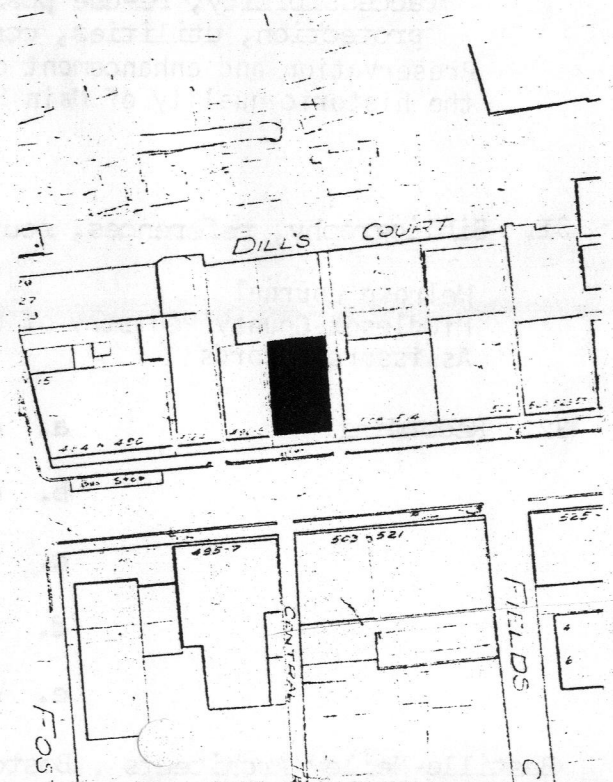
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DILL'S COURT



1. Town Melrose, Massachusetts
2. Address 500-504 Main Street
3. Name Hill Building(Larrabee's New Brick Block)
4. Date 1870 (Melrose Journal)
5. Style Bracketed Mansard
6. Architect Eaton
7. Builder Emerson
8. Owner (original) John Larabee
(present) Maurice Standard
9. Use (original) Residential/Commercial
(present) Residential/Commercial
10. Lot size 6,115 Sq. ft.
11. Distance from St. 7 ft.
12. Approximate frontage 48.51 ft.

13. Building type Commercial-residential
14. Plan type Rectangular
15. No. of stories 3 bays 2
16. Foundation Stone
17. Walls Brick
18. Roof forms Mansard-hip
materials Slate/tar and gravel
features Copper flashing
19. Chimney(s) _____
20. Doors and windows Varied; commercial store front; 1/1; 2/2
21. Porches and additions Rear 2nd floor porch
22. Outbuildings None
23. Alterations Storefronts; front bays added.
24. Present condition Good
25. Other exterior features Patterned brick belt at 2nd floor and cornice below bracket wood cornice
Elaborately ornamented Mansard dormers.



26. Surroundings

(landscaping, parks, sidewalks, buildings or alleyways that border the building).

Alleyway to the north; abuts one-story 20th century building to the south.

27. Importance to setting

(great, moderate, minor, none, detrimental)

28. Further explanation of architectural data/significance

(other uses and dates, previous locations and dates, assessment, elevators, etc., characteristics of architectural style, specimen or period, or architect, builder, or construction method, extent of surviving original material)

The Hill Building (Larrabee's New Brick Block), is a fine example of the Bracketed-Mansard Victorian style. It exhibits extensive ornamentation in the fenestration and has undergone alteration only along the storefront elevation, and an addition on the rear second story.

29. Historical and social data/significance

(national, regional or local importance relating to events, personages, themes)

Previous to 1870 this site was occupied by the Lyceum which burned in the great fire of August, 1870. Samuel A. Boardman rebuilt Unity Hall on the foundation and walls remaining after the fire. In 1880 John F. Larrabee purchased Unity Hall and extensively reconstructed the building to create Larrabee's New Brick Block.

30. Preservation considerations

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

Preservation and enhancement of this building is very important to maintain the historic quality of Main Street

31. Bibliography, references, sources of dates

Melrose Journal
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds
Assessors Records

32. Recording:

- a. date August 21, 1978
- b. organization Bastille-Neiley
- c. field survey Cudlip/DiStefano
- d. research at Melrose public sources
- e. checked by Robert G. Neiley