

**BROCKTON, 1883
BOOK 501, PAGE 2**

THOMAS A. EDISON

EDISON ELECTRIC ILLUMINATING COMPANY

Developed World Renowned Electricity Projects in Brockton

World famous inventor Thomas A. Edison chose Brockton, Massachusetts as the location for several experimental electricity projects. The Edison Electric Illuminating Company bought a building in downtown Brockton bordered by School Street, Montello Street and Lincoln Street for an experimental laboratory for electrification.

In 1883, Edison threw a switch giving Brockton the world's first three wire underground System. It was considered a very environmentally friendly approach to power because underground wires did not require the removal of as many trees as an above ground system.

In October, 1884, the City Theatre became the world's first theatre electrified by an underground system, the Brockton Central Fire Station became the nation's first electrically operated fire station, and the first residential customer to be lit from a central generating station was on nearby Green Street. The location of the Brockton station also encouraged the development of Brockton's electric railway system. Edison was a regular visitor to Brockton during these projects.

The Old Colony Planning Council, the region's planning agency, now occupies the former Edison site.

Compliments of Register of Deeds John R. Buckley, Jr.
and Pasquale Ciaramella,

Executive Director Old Colony Planning Council

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