

PH 0678945

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAR 12 1979  
DATE ENTERED MAY 10 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Edwin Abbot House (Longy School of Music)

AND/OR COMMON

Longy School of Music

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1 Follen Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY

Middlesex

CODE

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Longy School of Music

STREET & NUMBER

1 Follen Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

VICINITY OF

STATE

Massachusetts

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

128 Third Street

CITY, TOWN

Cambridge

STATE

Massachusetts

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE

1977

FEDERAL  STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Boston

STATE

Massachusetts

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Abbot House is built of polychromatic granite in the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The facade is rust yellow colored stone, with five dark brownstone string courses of varying width; three wide ones linking basement, first and second floor lintels and two narrow ones linking first and second floor sills. These banks serve as an important element of continuity. The windows are of various styles and sizes and appear to have almost a random placement in the walls, though in fact they genuinely demark the Victorian-shaped rooms within, and the staircases. The raised basement is distinguished from the rest of the structure by being of a darker stone and by its height.

Above and below the windows on the ground floor the monochromatic bank of dark granite is void of any detail. The windows echo this modern, ribbon-like quality as they are plate glass and are asymmetrical, with the top frame smaller than the bottom. On the front facade is a subtly articulated Syrian arch extending over the alcove windows of the entrance hall and the front door, which clearly indicate the main entrance to the approaching visitor.

The second-story windows are also delineated by two string courses running above and below the window casements. The one above, marking the ceiling of the rooms within, is unornamented except for a slight lip on the upper edge, whereas the one below is a thin rib of stone molding with a fine classical dentil course on the lower edge. The windows are typically small paneled Colonial revival, although occasionally joined with a plate-glass pane in the lower frame. The third (half) story rises through the eaves, which carry a typical heavy Romanesque dentil course on the upper edge, and exists principally as dormer windows set around in the hip roof of red Spanish tile. The fenestration is triangular leaded glass casement windows. The arrangement of window styles combined with the change in intensity of the string courses pulls the eye up and down the facade and counteracts the natural heaviness of the material with which the house is built.

The general plan of the original Abbot House is that of an L, formed by joining two oblongs and capping them with a hip roof. The front of the L is the central part of the building. This oblong itself actually contains some degree of symmetry, for although not readily apparent from the street, it has three towers fused into its mass in a more or less symmetrical arrangement. The roof is covered in red tiles. The gable finials are fleur-de-lis, in terracotta. Rising from the roof are six granite chimneys capped with red sandstone. Although the use of heavy tiles for the roof was becoming popular at the time Abbot House was built, the tiles also contributed to the overall fireproofing of the building, which was a prime consideration for Mr. Abbot. The walls of the structure are more than a foot thick and rest on a finely laid foundation of cut fieldstone. The walls are self-supporting masonry and contain no iron or wooden bracing. There is steel trussing in the roof, rather than pinned oaken timbering. The roof on the Abbot House owes much to the Red House of William Morris and to the neoclassic crowns and finials of Charles McKim's Boston Public Library. The chimneys, however, are Richardsonian. They are low and subdued, and in construction are identical to those of Richardsonian, containing no elements of Queen Anne Revival or shingle style.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

2

The interior of Abbot House is finished almost entirely in wood paneling--oak, walnut, and butternut are used for the downstairs rooms. In all the rooms the same motifs are repeated with an organic rhythm. The room to the right of the front entrance contains an overall decor that has Palladian elements of the Colonial Revival as compared to the Italian and Queen Anne elements that are to be found in the other rooms.

The arrangement of space in the front part of the house is such that volumes move in and out of the rooms, despite the apparent scheme of cubicles opening into a central hall. Each room on the ground floor opens into its neighbor, and the original dining room can open into the stairway hall. A stairway with somewhat Byzantine turned ballusters curves upward from the left rear corner of the entrance hall. The wide molding used in finishing the interiors of the rooms on the third floor adds a modern note to those rooms and highlights the abstracted window placements.

An addition to the Abbot House was made in 1968 when the Longy School constructed a combination concert hall and library (Edward Pickman Concert Hall). It is joined to the building at the back of the stairway hall and is parallel with and connected to the ell of the original house. The exterior brick is the same rust yellow of the garden wall and the darker colored belt courses (of precast concrete) delineate the floor and ceiling levels in the same manner as those in the principal structure. The original garden wall of yellow brick with red sandstone capping extends along the Follen and Garden Street Sides of the Longy property.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES: 1889 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Longfellow, Alden and Harlow

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Edwin Abbot House in Cambridge retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, is associated with persons significant in our past and is one of the finest residential interpretations of Richardsonian inspired design in Cambridge.

Abbot House was built in 1889 at One Follen Street, Cambridge, on the site of the old Cambridge Arsenal by Mr. E.H. Abbot, a lawyer and president of the Wisconsin Central Company who had moved to Cambridge from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He commissioned the Boston firm of Longfellow, Alden and Harlow to design for him the first stone house in the city of Cambridge; Abbot was undoubtedly attracted to the firm because of their having won the competition to design the Cambridge City Hall. All three architects had originally worked as part of the office of H.H. Richardson and his influence is clearly seen in the exterior and interior design and finishing of Abbot House. Newspapers of the time describe it as "probably the only fireproof and the most expensive residence in the city."

Abbot House is currently in appropriate adaptive use as the Longy School of Music. The building was purchased by the school in 1937 from Edwin H. Abbot, Jr. A major addition was made in 1968 in the form of a combination concert hall and library designed by the architectural firm of Huygens and Tappe, Inc. The concert hall/library has won numerous prizes and was featured in the January 1966 issue of Progressive Architecture. The birchwood plywood paneling used throughout the large room echoes the extensive use of paneling in Abbot House, and the fact that the outside rear wall of Abbot House serves as an interior wall in the foyer of the concert hall is another important visual bridge.

The Longy School of Music was founded in 1915 by Georges Longy, principal oboist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, to provide musical training in the French manner for children of the Boston Symphony Orchestra players. The school moved to its present quarters in 1937 and continues to this day the important emphasis on solfege training begun by Mr. Longy. Its distinguished faculty and student body have included such well-known musicians as Nadia Boulanger, Gregory Tucker, Wolfe Wolfensohn, E. Power Biggs, Daniel Pinkham, Anton Kurti, Robert Freeman, and Boris Goldovsky. Situated midway between Harvard and Radcliffe, the school provides an important musical resource for students living in Cambridge as well as for young children and adults. The Edward Pickman Concert Hall is widely used for concerts presented by Longy faculty and students and by accomplished outside musicians who rent the facility.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cambridge Historical Commission. Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge, Report Four; Old Cambridge. Cambridge, Mass. 1973.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY LESS than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 9	3 2 5 2 2 0	4 6 9 3 7 4 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Please refer to the attached map which is sheet #216 of Cambridge City Engineer's series. The boundary is delineated in red.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Linda Glick  
Longy School of Music

Candace Jenkins, National Register Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Massachusetts Historical Commission

February 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

294 Washington Street

(617) 727-8470

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Boston

Massachusetts

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Patricia Wedowski*

3/1/79

TITLE

Executive Director, Mass. Historical Comm.

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles Ables*

DATE

5-10-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*Paula M. Dwyer*

DATE

5/9/79

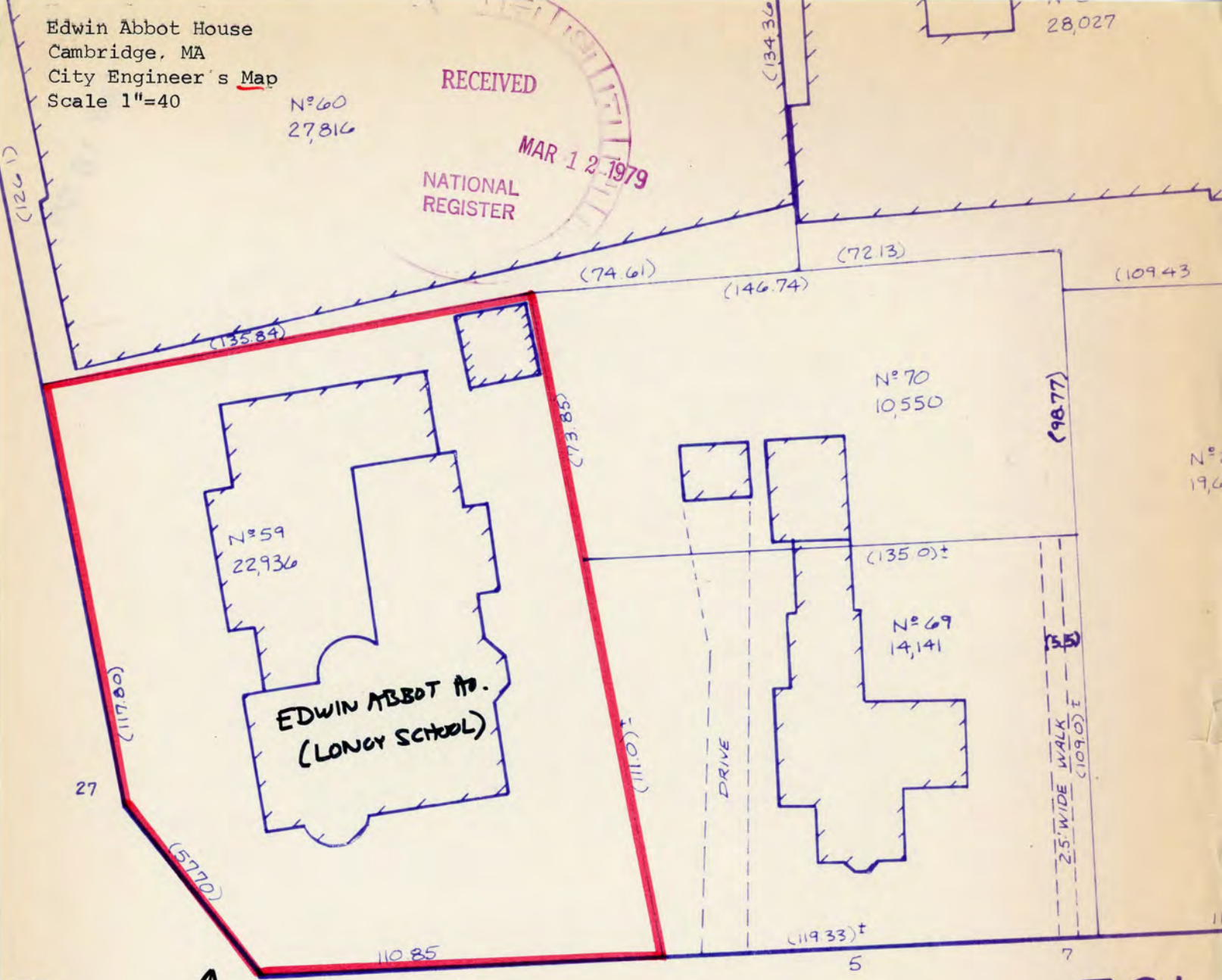
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Edwin Abbot House  
Cambridge, MA  
City Engineer's Map  
Scale 1"=40

N°60  
27,816



28,027



EDWIN ABBOT No.  
(LONGY SCHOOL)

N°59  
22,936

N°70  
10,550

N°69  
14,141

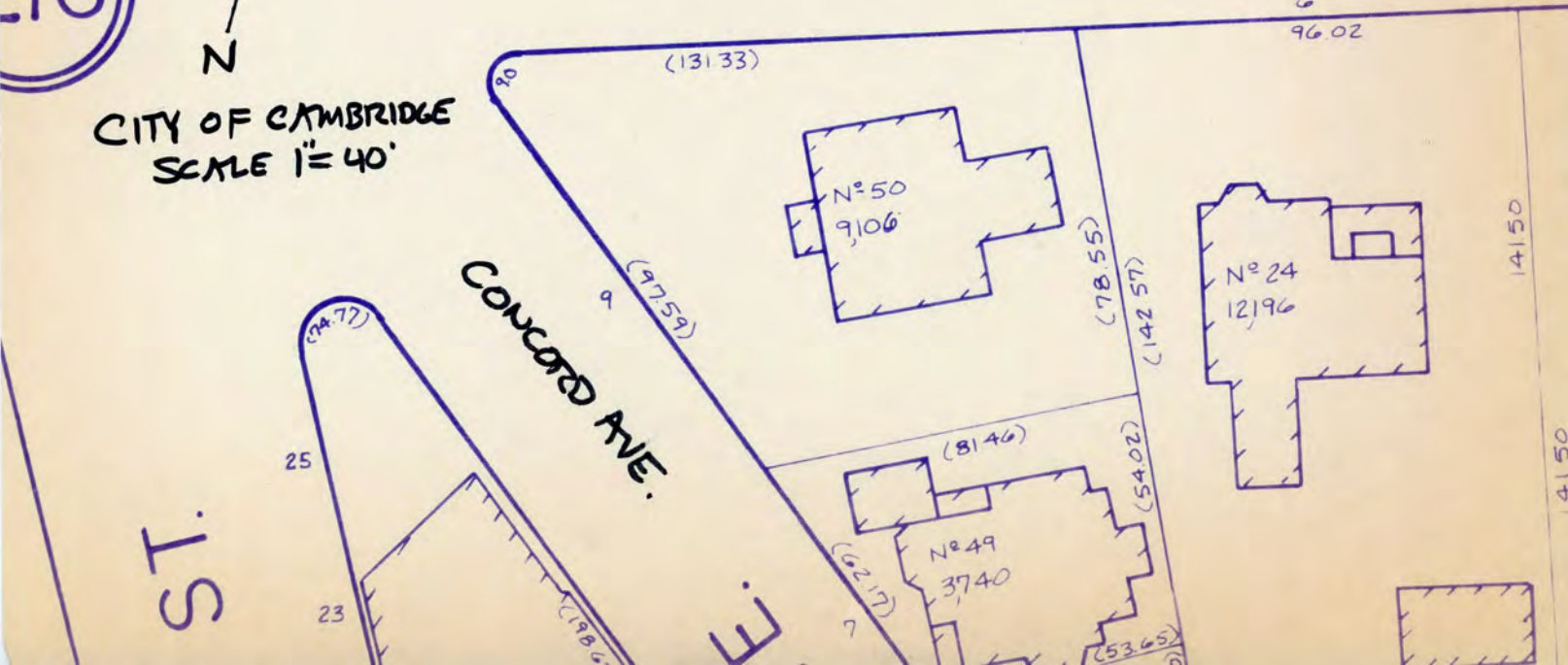
FOLLEN ST.

FOL

216



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
SCALE 1"=40'



CONCORD AVE.

N°50  
9,106

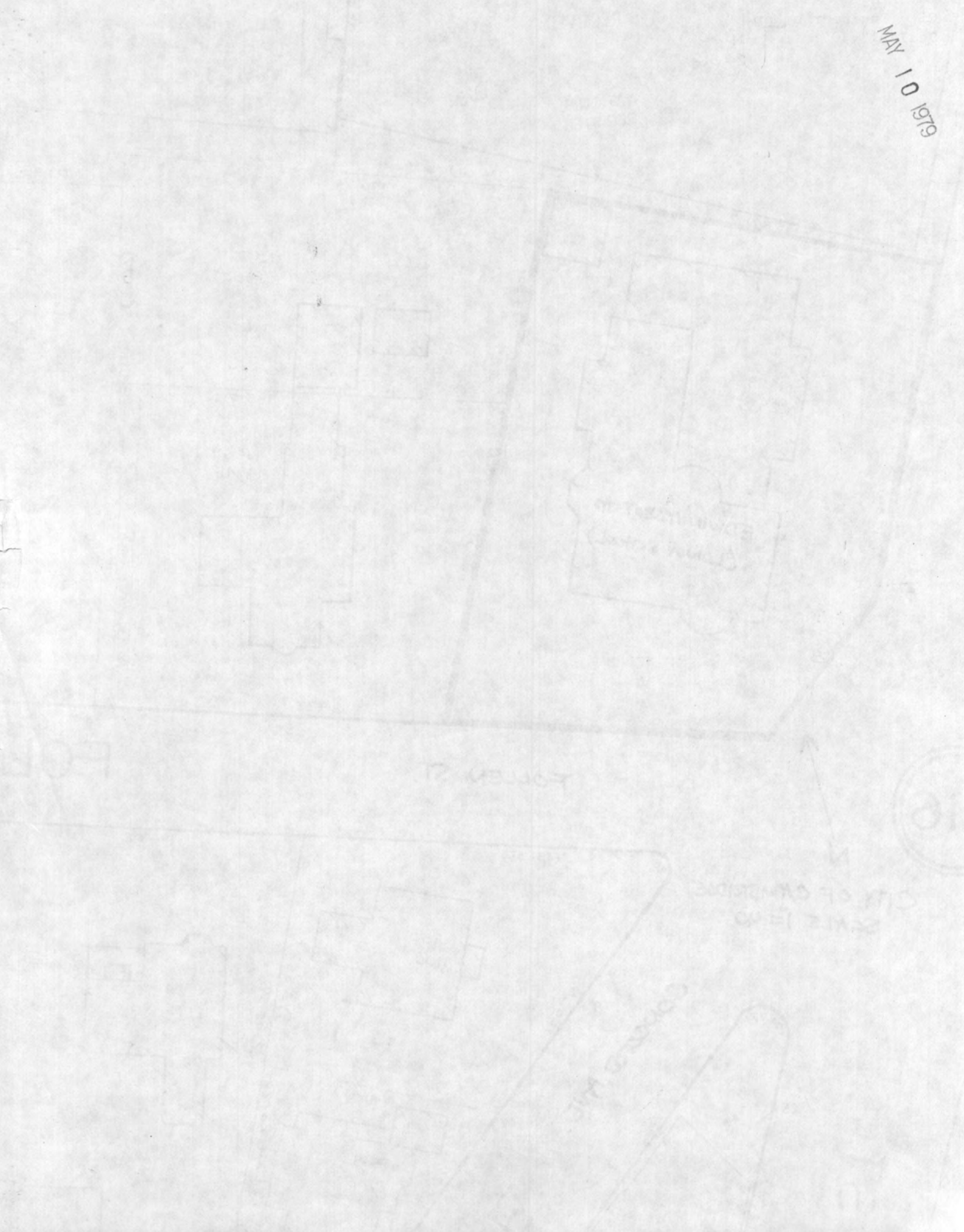
N°24  
12,196

N°49  
3,740

ST.

E

MAY 10 1979



FOURTH ST

CITY OF CHANDLER  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

CONCRETE  
FLOOR

Property

Abbat, Edwin, House (Longy School of Music)

State

Mass. (Middlesex)

Working Number

# 3.12.79.500

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 11

Eating

CONTROL

pl

3.13.79

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

THE BUILDING IS SIGNIFICANT AS ONE WHICH SHOWS THE RICHARDSONIAN INFLUENCE IN CAMBRIDGE. IT WAS DESIGNED BY THE FIRM OF LONGFELLOW, ARLOW AND WARDIN; ALL THREE HAD WORKED PREVIOUSLY FOR RICHARDSON. IT IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT FOR ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE ~~LONGLEY~~ LONGLEY SCHOOL OF MUSIC WHICH HAS OCCUPIED THE HOUSE SINCE 1937 AND WAS ADDED TO IT FOR THEIR PURPOSES.

ACCEPT  
Mr. Douglas  
5/9/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

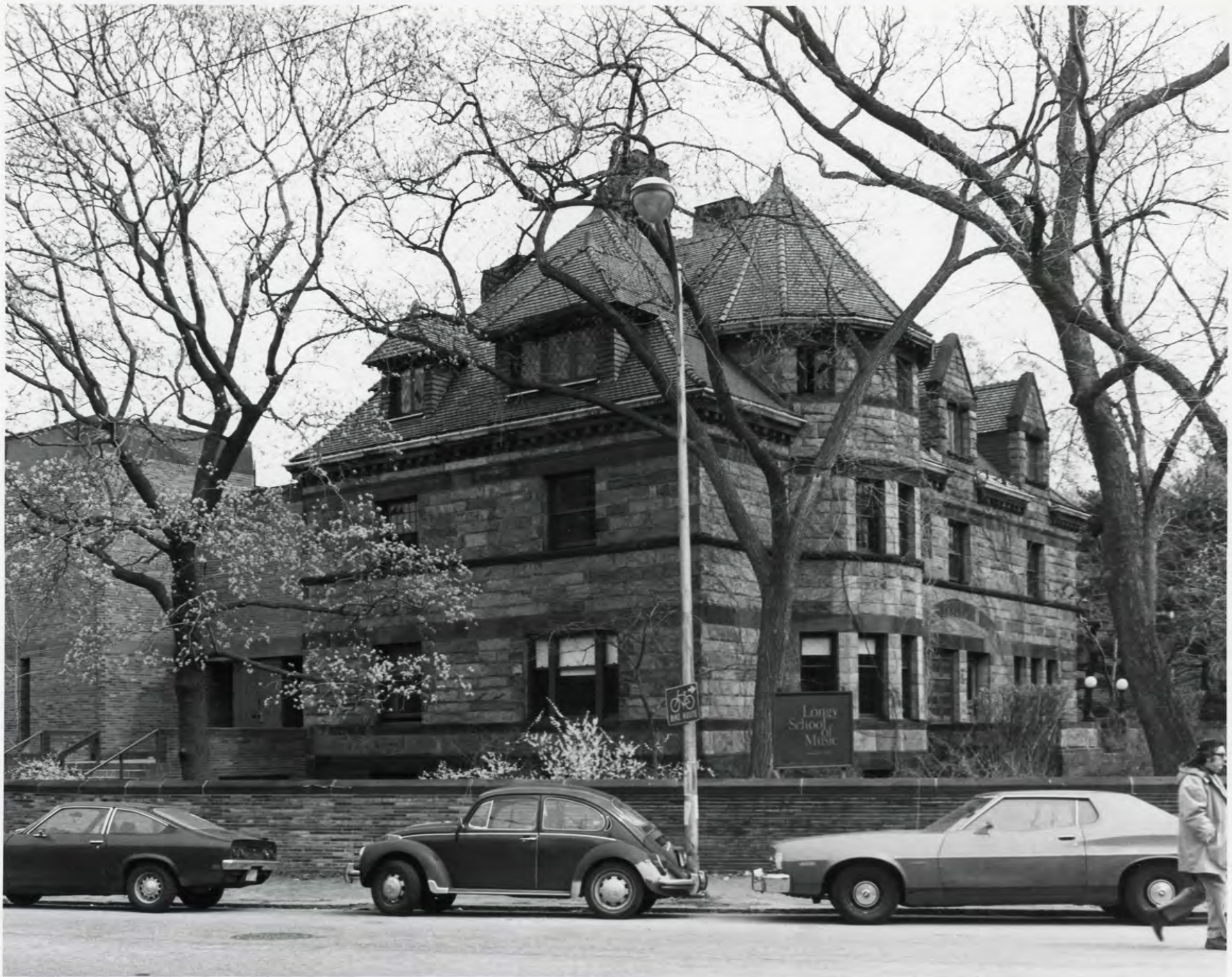
Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAY 10 1979

Federal Register Entry

6-5-79

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



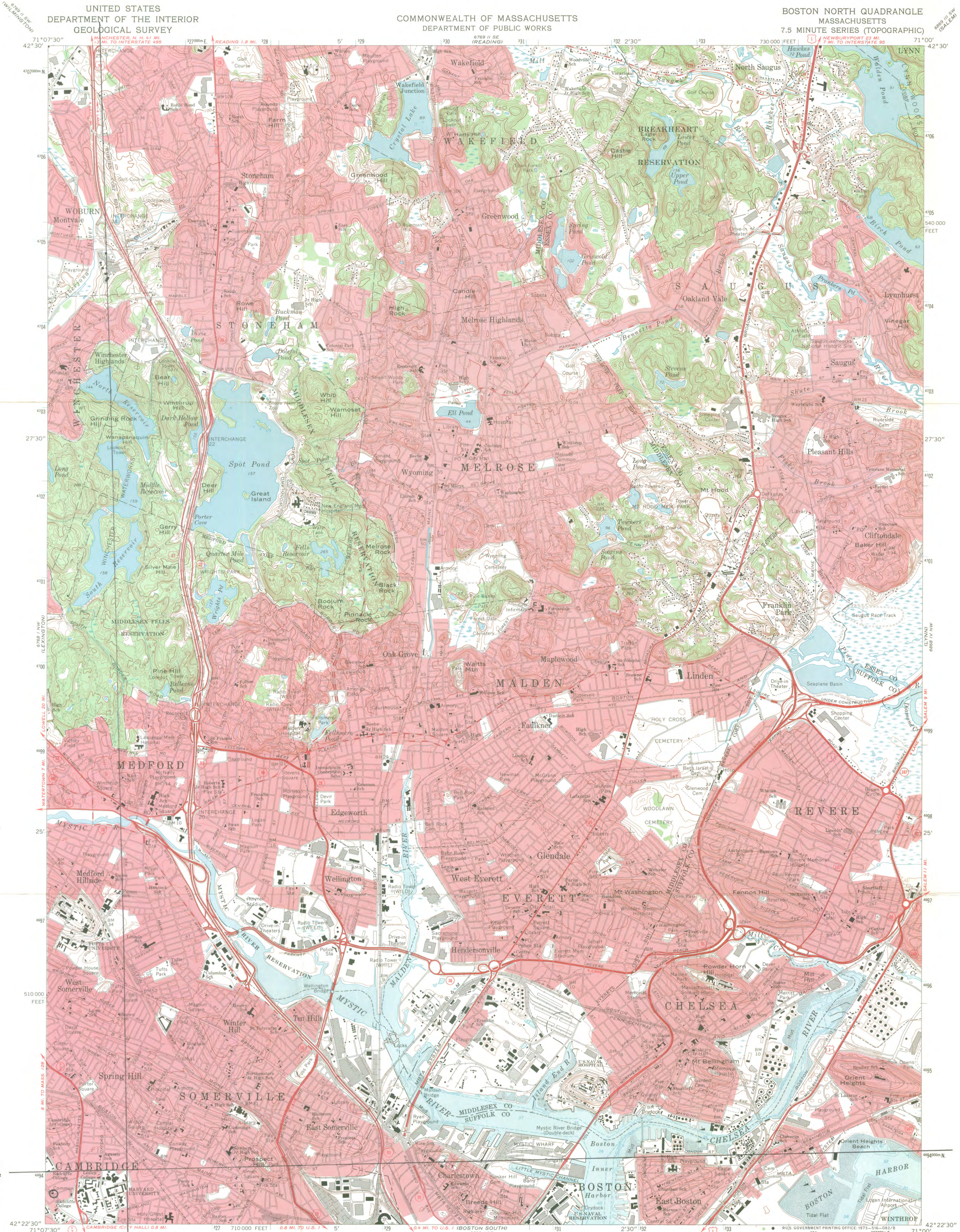
CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPH <sup>MAY 10 1979</sup>

By C. SULLIVAN

No. 1044/33 Date 4-78

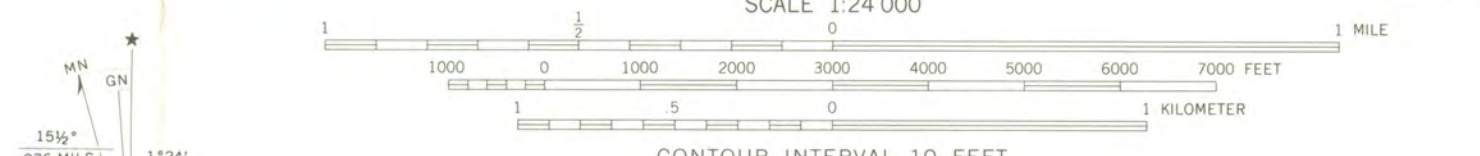
EDWIN ABBOT HOUSE (Longy School of Music)  
ONE FOLLOE ST.  
CAMBRIDGE, MASS

MAR 12 1979



Edwin Abbot House  
Cambridge, MA  
UTM REFERENCES:  
19/325220/4693740  
1,2,0

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey  
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from  
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971  
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Chart 248 (1971)  
This information is not intended for navigational purposes  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,  
mainland zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 19, shown in blue  
Boundaries in tidal areas from information supplied  
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

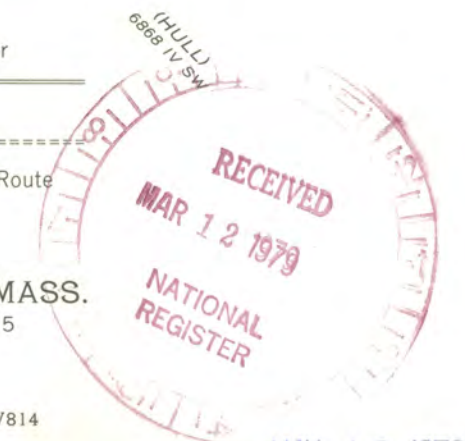


CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
SHORELINE SHOWS REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U. S. Route  
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

BOSTON NORTH, MASS.  
N4222.5—W7100.7.5  
1971  
AMS 6768 I NE—SERIES W814



MAY 10 1979

Longy  
School  
of  
Music

Roman Totenberg, director  
Robert Lee Tipps, administrator

MA  
April 13, 1979

Dr. William J. Murtagh  
Keeper of the National Register  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Pension Building  
440 G Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20243

Dear Dr. Murtagh:

Thank you for letting us know that your committee will soon be considering whether the Edwin Abbot House (Longy School of Music) should be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The trustees and administration of the Longy School value the architectural significance of our building and are eager for the significant details of the building to be preserved.

Abbot House is an important example of Richardson-Romanesque architecture and holds a unique position as the first stone house to be constructed in Cambridge. It was described by newspapers of the time (1881) as "probably the only fireproof and the most expensive residence in the city." The building is located adjacent to Arsenal Square, on the edge of the Old Cambridge Historic District. Abbot House has seen effective adaptive use as a music school since 1937 and has undergone very few changes. Important exterior and interior features are very much intact, though currently in need of repair.

We appreciate having been given the opportunity to restate our case and will hope to hear a positive outcome in the near future.

Sincerely,

*Linda L. Glick*

Linda L. Glick, Trustee

P.S. To avoid confusion, I should tell you that the name of the President of the Board of Trustees, Betty vN. Burroughs, appears on any documents requiring a signature.

2 of your

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D APR 18 1979

INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

DATE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE CITY TAKEN

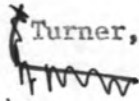
INITIALS

el/h/cf

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAY 10 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Odd Fellow's Hall	Shelburne Falls Franklin County
Conkey-Stevens House	Anherst Hampshire County
Sanderson, Julia, Theater (Paramount Theater)	Springfield Hampden County
Winchester Square Historic District	Springfield Hampden County
* Turner, Stephen, House 	Norfolk Norfolk County
Abbot, Edwin, House (Longy School of Music)	Cambridge Middlesex County
Chaplin-Clarke House	Rowley Essex County

Also Notified

Honorable Paul G. Tsongas

Honorable Edward M. Kennedy  
Honorable Silvio O. Conte  
Honorable Edward P. Boland  
Honorable Margaret M. Heckler  
Honorable Thomas P. O'Neill  
Honorable Nicholas Mayroules

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mrs. Patricia L. Weslowski  
Executive Director  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

NR Byers/bjr 5/14/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.