

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



970

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Students House

other names/site number Harry Hamilton Kerr Hall of Northeastern University

2. Location

street & number 96 The Fenway N/A not for publication

city or town Boston N/A vicinity

state Massachusetts code MA county Suffolk code 025 zip code 02115

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Judith B. McDonough

7/24/97

Signature of certifying official/Title Judith B. McDonough, Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Patricia Anderson

Date of Action

9/1/97

Students House
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: education-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Federal Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stone

brick

roof slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Boston (Suffolk County)
Massachusetts

7. DESCRIPTION

EXTERIOR

Students House (now Henry Hamilton Kerr Hall of Northeastern University) at 96 The Fenway is a symmetrical five-bay, six-story brick 1913-14 Federal Revival dormitory building with an I-plan and a later one-story utilitarian brick wing extending from the rear corner. The top floor is designed to appear as a mansard roof, but the actual roof is a flat, tar and gravel type. The building measures 51' across in front, 76' across at rear and is 100' deep and 68' in height. According to the original permit, Students House was built on filled land and rests on rows of 25' wooden piles. The principal facade, which faces west overlooking the Back Bay Fens, is constructed of tan brick, set in a Flemish bond pattern, with cast stone trim. Although the building is freestanding it is close to adjacent buildings of similar height. The unadorned side and rear facades, which are not intended to be seen, are constructed of red brick. The principal facade is organized visually into layers which reflect the interior uses of the space. Cast stone is used at the ground level, featuring a central entry framed by paired Ionic columns. Detailing is concentrated on the second floor, where principal public spaces are located. Kerr Hall is in excellent condition and has had few alterations since construction. The building is located directly across from the Back Bay Fens, part of Frederick Law Olmsted's "Emerald Necklace" system of connected parks and open spaces. The street is comprised of buildings of approximately the same mass, scale and vintage, constructed beginning in the late 1890's.

The ground floor of Students House is a raised basement story like that of the five-story apartment buildings in the Fenway area. In the case of Students House, however, the main entrance is located just below ground level, on the lower story, rather than up a flight of exterior steps to the next floor. Granite block retaining walls are used to create a below-grade area in front of the entrance door to accommodate the change in grade. This area was originally reached by stepping down two granite steps, but in recent years, a handicapped access ramp and railing has been installed. On either side of the retaining walls are two small squares of lawn. Mature yew bushes, mountain laurel, and other shrubs have been planted in front of the building on either side of the entrance and now obscure the view of most of the first floor. Between 96 The Fenway and the adjacent building at #102 is a small brick courtyard, a few feet below ground level, which is not landscaped and appears to be unused. A chain link fence encloses the west side of the courtyard. This utilitarian fence, which is of recent vintage, has a handsome decorative iron gate, probably early 20th century in date.

The first floor is faced with rusticated cast stone blocks shaped so the joints create strong horizontal lines between courses. Splayed lintels are used above first floor windows. The main entrance is framed by pairs of cast stone Greek Ionic columns supporting a simple entablature and cornice. Lamps on either side of the entrance door appear to be original. The door itself has glass panes. Flanking the door are sidelights with a simple decoration in the upper glass panels.

(continued)

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Design emphasis is on the second floor. The size of window openings is largest here and decreases gradually on upper stores. Window frames are set within brick arches which are slightly recessed and feature cast stone keystones. Within the semi-circular tympanum area of the brick arches are Federal style semi-circular cast stone plaques, featuring either cornucopias festooned with ribbons or fruit festooned with draperies. A cast stone band separates the window frames from the tympanum area and continues across the entire front. Window sash is presently 1/1 but was originally 12/12 at this level. Shallow, balcony-like iron window grills are used to further emphasize second floor windows. The center grill is the largest and is squared off, whereas the other four grills are elliptical in shape. The large rectangular center grill helps to emphasize the central bay.

The third and fourth floors are alike in their decorative treatment. On each of these floors, the center window has three parts, and above the whole is a cast stone lintel with a festoon motif in the center and square blocks at the sides. Lintels over windows in bays 1 & 2 and 4 & 5 are similar but have no festooning. Window sash is now 1/1 but was originally multi-pane here as elsewhere on this facade.

The fifth floor is separated from the fourth by a curved molding. The area between window sash at level five has been ornamented by using recessed brickwork to create a square design. Above this floor is a cast stone band followed by a dentil molding and modillion block cornice marking the separation between the brick portion of the facade and the upper story, which is designed to give the illusion of a mansard roof. This upper "roof" story is faced with black rectangular slates and features copper surrounds around the five "dormer" windows, which alternate between round-headed and triangular pediments. The gable ends are plain brick walls edged with copper.

INTERIOR

On the inside, the front half of the first floor contains the entrance vestibule, hall, several public rooms including a study and mail room, and an office. Decorative treatment of first floor public rooms is limited to simple moldings, as this area was not considered as important as the second floor public spaces. Vestibule walls are divided into panels, typical of the Federal Revival style, which are set off by reverse fluted pilasters at the sides and between the entrance doors and sidelights. The exterior door and the interior door separating the vestibule from the hall are both multi-pane glass doors flanked by full sidelights. The sidelights have six rows of three panes across, with a simple decorative motif in the top row. The floor is white and gray ceramic tile.

The rear of the first floor is taken up by the kitchen, food storage areas, utilities, and a laundry room for student use. A dumbwaiter is used to carry food from the kitchen to the second floor dining room. The laundry room is located in a utilitarian one-story brick wing which was built later than the original structure.

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Continuation Sheet****Students House
Boston (Suffolk County)
Massachusetts**Section number 7 Page 3

Architectural adornment is concentrated on the second floor, where major public rooms are located. This floor is reached via an elevator or staircase located on the north side of the first and second floor hallways. On the second floor, a center hallway connects the two major public spaces, which are located at opposite ends of the building. In the front, with large sunny windows facing the Back Bay Fens, is what is now the faculty dining area but on earlier plans is labeled the "lounge." An early photograph shows this room furnished as a comfortable, sunny library/reading room. This large and elegant room is symmetrical in plan and Federal Revival in style and extends the full width of the building, a total of almost 48' feet long by 24 feet wide for a ratio of 1:2. The wide expanse of the room is broken up by the use of four fluted Roman Ionic pilasters placed next to four matching large free-standing fluted Roman Ionic columns. The pilasters and columns are placed 8' from each corner, breaking the room visually into three sections of 8', 32' and 8', a ratio of 1:4:1. They support a large beam which is necessary from a structural standpoint, to span the large open expanse of the room, and also serves as a decorative feature to break up the space. The chimney breast at each end of the room is also 8' wide, further carrying out the careful use of proportions. The fireplace mantels combine Colonial Revival details including an eared architrave, modified bolection molding above, then a mantel shelf with central projection. On either side of the mantels is a bookshelf, placed in the recess created by the chimney breast. In the northeast corner of the room is a bar area built in when the room was converted to a faculty club. The west wall has five windows, three between the columns and one on each side. The east wall has one window in the southeast corner between the column and wall--this window is not balanced by one in the corner where the bar is located. In the center of the east wall are French doors leading out into the hallway. This doorway is adorned by an eared architrave, frieze with fluting at each end, and cornice. Other room detailing includes a chair rail around most of the perimeter of the room, a cornice molding, and second molding 4" below the cornice molding which further accents the upper wall area. The ceiling is not adorned. The floor of the room is covered with wall to wall carpeting. The hanging bowl-type light fixtures which appear in an early photograph have been removed. Otherwise, the character of the room has been well-preserved with only a few modern intrusions, including contemporary spot lights, pipes of a sprinkler system and wall air conditioning units.

At the rear of the second floor is a second large room, approximately 29' x 27' with a 8' x 16' ell. This room, originally the dining room for Student's House, is now used as a faculty lounge. Two large square posts in the center of the room, necessary as structural supports because of the size of the room, have been used by the architect as a visual focus. The posts are ornamented with a chair rail, simple capital and cornice molding. Shallow decorative ceiling beams connect the posts with pilasters along the side walls, breaking the ceiling of the large room into seven smaller visual units. The pilasters are used to divide the expanse of the walls into smaller units. The room is lit with brass chandeliers of recent vintage, and floors are covered with wall to wall carpeting.

(continued)

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Also on the second floor is an office, measuring about 8' x 12', with slightly more elaborate classical moldings. On the other side of the center corridor are two multi-purpose conference rooms with simple moldings and built-in storage units added by Northeastern.

Above the second floor are four floors of dormitory rooms arranged off central hallways. The fourth, fifth and sixth floor have almost identical floorplans featuring 16 bedrooms, ranging in size from 100 to 195 square feet. The eight one-bedroom units (100-120 square feet) each have one closet, and the eight two bedroom units (145-195 square feet) have two closets. Each room contains a single bed, desk and bureau for each student. Four bathrooms are located on each floor.

The floorplan for the third floor is slightly different on the west (Fenway) end, where one bedroom is devoted to storage and two others are organized into a small suite with living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.

Dormitory rooms are simple in their architectural features, which include chair rails, baseboards, simple trim around doors and windows, simple cornice moldings, and closet doors with three recessed panels. Each bedroom has at least one window. Each student is provided with a single built-in shelf supported with two curved brackets. Northeastern has installed overhead light fixtures, mirrors and bulletin boards in each room. Transom windows above each door have been blocked off, and the height of hall ceilings has been lowered. Floors are carpeted.

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites have been recorded on the property, it is possible that sites are present. Two prehistoric sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile). The physical characteristics of the property, during the historic period prior to filling, were not favorable for most types of prehistoric sites. The area originally consisted of mud flats caused by tidal flow from the Back Bay. These characteristics are favorable for sites such as Native fishweirs similar to that which has been recognized nearby at the Boylston Street Fishweir Site (19-SU-16). While difficult to locate, a distinct possibility exists that this type of site may be present on the property under filled soils. Submerged habitation sites may also be present which pre-date potential fishweirs.

Construction of a dike on the mud flats and subsequent filling after 1825 indicates potential for historic period survivals after that date. Construction of the Hall in 1913-14, which covers most of the small lot, has significantly disturbed most of the parcel. These factors indicate the potential for significant historic survivals is low.

(end)

Students House
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1913-1947

Significant Dates

1913-1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

(Kilham & Hopkins), Kilham, Walter H.

Hopkins, James C.

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☒ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Northeastern University Archives

Students House
Name of Property

Suffolk, MA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9,000 sq. ft.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1. 19 327620 4689640
Zone Easting Northing

2. Zone Easting Northing

3. Zone Easting Northing

4. Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pamela W. Fox, Preservation Consultant and Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date July 1997

street & number 220 Morrissey Boulevard telephone 617-727-8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02125

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Northeastern Univesity

street & number 360 Huntington Avenue telephone 617-373-2000

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02115

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Students House (now Henry Hamilton Kerr Hall of Northeastern University), constructed in 1913-14, is an unusual example of dormitory-style housing built by a non-profit organization to provide suitable living conditions for female students in the Boston area in the early 20th century. The building exemplifies the reform spirit of the progressive era, a time when private reformers and some politicians attempted to address the problems caused by rapid growth of cities and industries. Students House is an important example of efforts to promote the welfare of women in society by making it possible for young girls to pursue higher education in a safe and healthful environment within the city. These efforts, which in this case were led by affluent women operating within a church-sponsored institutional framework, are also part of the larger movement to improve the position of women in society in the years just before the approval of female suffrage. Students House is also significant as a well-crafted example of the work of the Boston architects Kilham and Hopkins, a firm known for its interest in housing reform. Students House retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association with the progressive reform movement of the early 20th century and therefore fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register on the local level.

During the first decade of this century, many Boston schools had no dormitory facilities, and female students were often obliged to live in cheap rooming houses not subject to licensing regulations. The girls often lacked proper food. During this period, two groups of ladies became increasingly concerned for the safety and well-being of these young women. In 1909, one group purchased two houses at 81-83 St. Stephens Street and incorporated under the name of "Boston Students Union." (Coincidentally, these houses are also owned by Northeastern University and are now called Light Hall.) The Boston Students Union housed only 20 girls but provided meals and assistance in locating safe lodgings in the city for many more. By 1910, another group of ladies from Emmanuel Church, an Episcopal Church in Boston's wealthy Back Bay area, had formed an organization called the "Students House" and was operating two houses for 35 girls on nearby St. James Avenue. In 1914 Students House was officially incorporated, and that same year the organization constructed a building at 96 The Fenway, with residential accommodations for 85 girls. Initially, many of the girls attended the New England Conservatory of Music, after the conservatory built its own dormitory facilities, many of the girls attended the Museum School of the Museum of Fine Arts, along with the Forsyth Dental School and to a lesser extent Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

The later history of Students House was influenced by economic conditions--particularly the Great Depression--as well as gradual changes in lifestyles and improvements in social and educational opportunities for women. During the Depression years school enrollments dropped drastically and by 1935 Boston Students Union was on the verge of financial collapse. The Students House, although somewhat more secure financially, also faced an uncertain future. By

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Massachusetts

chance, the principals of the two institutions met and, after negotiations, the two groups merged under the name "Boston Students Union-Students House." In the 1940s, the two institutions were legally consolidated as one organization known as Students House Incorporated, with the stated goal "To benefit young women engaged in the study of any branch of art, science or higher education in the City of Boston, and to furnish a home for them...." For many years the residence at 96 The Fenway was filled to capacity, serving hundreds of girls attending nearby institutions. During the 1960s and 70s, however, the demand for this style of living declined and it became difficult to maintain the operation. In 1972, the property was sold to Northeastern University, with the proceeds used to establish a scholarship fund to provide financial assistance to female students pursuing higher education in the Boston area. The building continues to serve as student housing and is now a coed dormitory. The Northeastern University Faculty Club is on the second floor.

Students House is also significant as an example of the work of Kilham and Hopkins, a prominent Boston architectural firm. During the first decades of the 20th century, Kilham and Hopkins built up a large practice designing educational buildings, private homes and public structures in Boston and throughout the state. Among their other major works during this period were the Whitman and Barnard Halls at Radcliffe College (1910), Dedham High School (1914), Waltham City Hall (c.1915), Lincoln School at Framingham (1919) and Tucker School in Milton (1921). Their residential work in Boston includes the apartment house at 876 Beacon Street (ca.1905) and the town house at 478 Commonwealth Avenue (1903). Walter H. Kilham (1868-1948), an eminent member of the Boston Society of Architects, was also known for his historical research, which culminated in the publication of the book *Boston After Bulfinch*, which reviews the history of architecture in Boston from the Federal period to the development of the steel frame. James G. Hopkins (1873-1938) was the second principal of the firm, which was established in 1900.

Kilham & Hopkins may have been chosen for the Students House commission because of their interest and experience in the area of low-cost housing. The article "Early Twentieth-Century Reform Housing by Kilham and Hopkins, Architects of Boston" by Richard M. Candee and Greer Hardwicke discusses Walter Kilham's work in promoting improved worker housing in Boston and other Massachusetts communities. In the first decade of the 20th century he was a member of a Boston group which met regularly to discuss civic improvements; and he promoted these ideas through lantern-slide lectures at clubs and societies. According to Candee and Hardwicke, one of his special concerns was the proliferation of wooden three-deckers. He advocated keeping cities "more open to the air and sunlight" and in his urban apartment buildings he looked to examples which provided for light and air to the lower stories. This concern with air and sunlight is exemplified in the I-plan of Students House, which allows for each of the many small dormitory rooms to have windows opening to the outside.

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Like other works by the firm, the design of Students House, while not innovative, is pleasing and dignified. The simplicity of detail on both exterior and interior can be expected in a building constructed for charitable purposes. In a review of the work of Kilham & Hopkins, printed in *The Architectural Record* of February, 1912, Herbert Croly discusses the firm as one "typical of the better contemporary architectural practice" in Boston, a city which did not encourage "originality or very daring architectural achievement" but rather promoted "good sense, simplicity, sobriety, self-restraint and conscientious attention to detail both in construction and in design." The following comment by Croly about a Kilham & Hopkins school building could well apply to Students House: "The characteristic of the design are frankness, simplicity, under- rather than over-ornamentation, and with all just a sufficient suggestion that the buildings are dedicated to a liberal rather than to a merely practical purpose."

Archaeological Significance

Since Boston was developed at an early date and many prehistoric sites have been destroyed, any surviving sites could be significant. Prehistoric sites in this area can provide important information on coastal subsistence and settlement patterns and how these patterns changed through time as a result of sea level rise. Both fishweir and submerged habitation type sites can provide important data toward a paleoenvironmental reconstruction of the area during and prior to sea level rise. Fishweir sites can also be an important source of information for fisheries technology during the early historic and prehistoric periods.

While historic archaeological potential is low, early 19th century fills in the area can provide general information on Boston life during that period. Fills can be specialized or the product of certain technologies or refuse from specific socio-economic groups.

(end)

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Students House
Boston (Suffolk County)
Massachusetts

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

Bromley Atlases (Roxbury)

Candee, Richard and Hardwicke, Greer, "Early Twentieth-Century Reform Housing by Kilham and Hopkins, Architects of Boston," *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol.22, #1, (Spring, 1987) pp.47-80.

City of Boston Building Department Records, Building Permit, September 9, 1913, Dept. of Licenses and Inspections. Note that the permit lists E.J.Holmes and Geo. E. Warren as "owners." These two men and their wives were members of Emmanuel Church who were instrumental in establishing Students House and building the dormitory.

City of Boston Building Department Records, Building Permit, August 30, 1972. Note that measurements given in the first paragraph are from this later permit, rather than the 1913 permit.

Croly, Herbert, "The Work of Kilham & Hopkins," *The Architectural Record*, Vol.XXXI, #2, February, 1912, p.97-128.

"History of Students House Incorporated," unpublished typescript, undated, prepared for Students House Incorporated.

Interviews of Mrs. Robert Hopkins by Mr. William V.Tripp, III, Sherburne, Powers & Needham, PC. Mr. Tripp is a Board Member of Students House Inc., Mrs. Hopkins is a former board member.

Kilham, Walter H. *Boston After Bulfinch: An Account of its Architecture, 1800-1900* (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1946)

Letter from Mrs. Robert Hopkins to Mr. William Tripp concerning preparation of the "History of Students House Incorporated" (July 13, 1978)

Pollan, Rosalind, Kennedy, Carol and Gordon, Edward, *Fenway Project Completion Report* for the Boston Landmarks Commission, August, 1984.

Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, photo collection (photograph of second floor library/reading room)

Suffolk County Registry of Deeds, Book 2032 (end) plot plan from 1891. Also Book 8558/45 (1972) and 5897/169 (1940) and map in Book 3104/251 (1905, Fuller-Whitney Surveys Corporation)

(continued)

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Students House
Boston (Suffolk County)
Massachusetts

Withey, Henry and Elsie, *Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)* (Los Angeles, 1970)

(end)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

City of Boston, MA, Ward 4, Parcel # 1712

(end)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Students House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Suffolk

DATE RECEIVED: 8/01/97 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/11/97
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/27/97 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/15/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 97000970

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: ☒ NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*School dormitory associated with early 20th century
progressive movement to support higher education for women.*

RECOM./CRITERIA accept A & C

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 9/11/97

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



Students House
(Kerr Hall of Northeastern
University)
96 The Fenway
Boston, MA

Pam Fox, photographer

10/96

Negatives: Northeastern University Archives

Photo #2

Front (west) facade

EXIT

PROCTOR



Students House
(Kerr Hall of Northeastern University)

96 The Fenway

Boston, MA

Pam Fox, Photographer

10/96

Negatives: Northeastern University archives

Photo #11

1st Floor hall looking out to vestibule



Students House
(Kerr Hall of Northeastern
University)

96 The Fenway
Boston, MA

Pam Fox, photographer

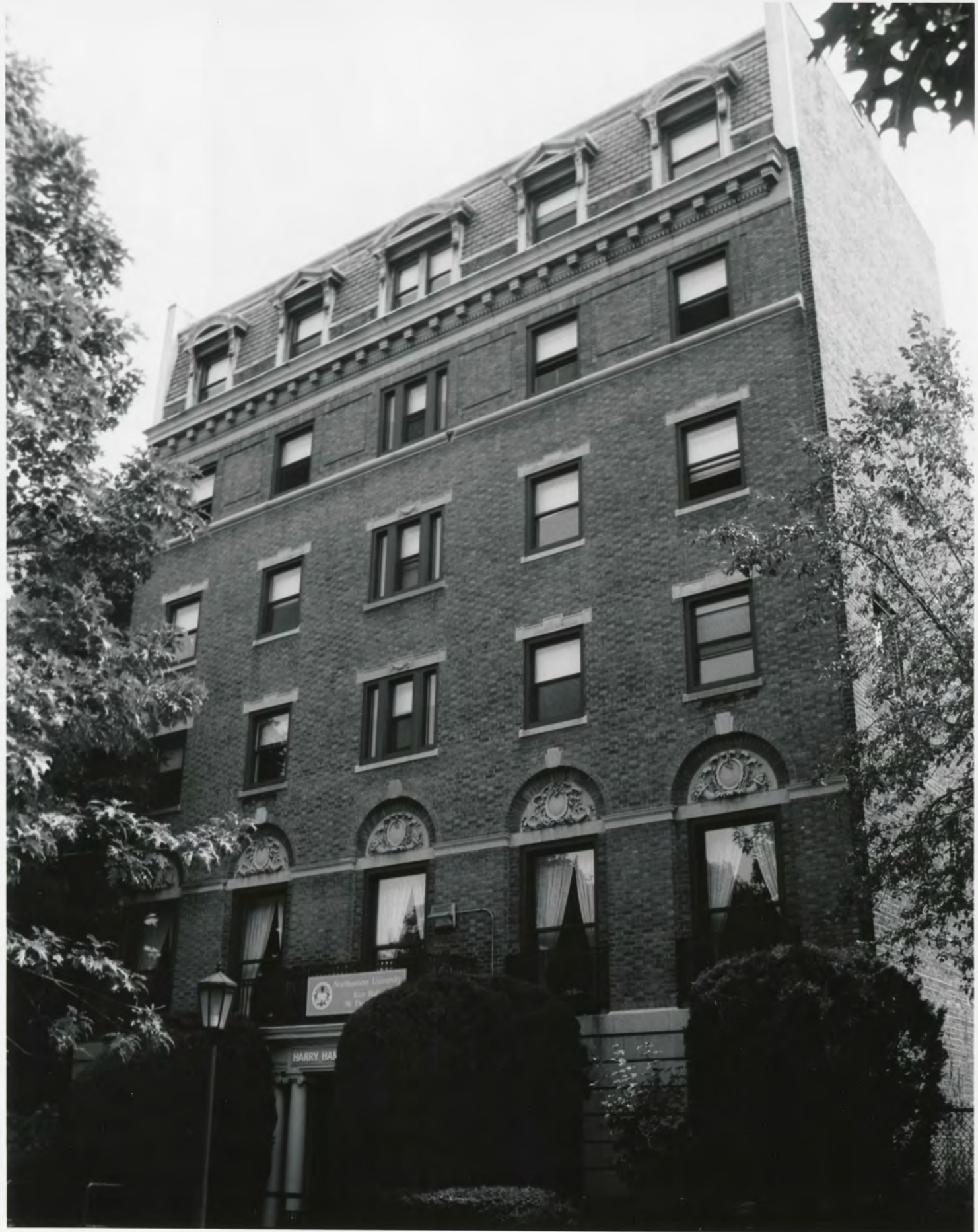
10/96

Negatives: Northeastern Univ. Archives

Photo # 15

Faculty Lounge

Dining room (originally the lounge
or study/reading room)



Students House
(Kerr Hall of Northeastern University)
96 The Fenway
Boston, MA

Pam Fox, photographer

10/96

Negatives: Northeastern Univ. Archives

Photo # 24A

Front Facade (West facade)



Boston South MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map

7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names

Students House of Kerr Hall of Northeastern University 96 The Fenway

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works. Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies.

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987. Supersedes Newton and Boston South 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1970.

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13270 (1982) and 13272 (1983). This information is not intended for navigational purposes.

Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 19. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks. There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS. NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929. CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER. OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.3 METER. DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS. DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE. SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER. THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 METERS.

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Feet	MILES		1	2	3
1	3.2808		284 MILES 17° 25' MILES	1	2	3
2	6.5616			4	5	
3	9.8424			6	7	
4	13.1232			8		
5	16.4040					
6	19.6848					
7	22.9656					
8	26.2464					
9	29.5272					
10	32.8080					

To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048

UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1987 magnetic declination (M) at center of map. Diagram is approximate.

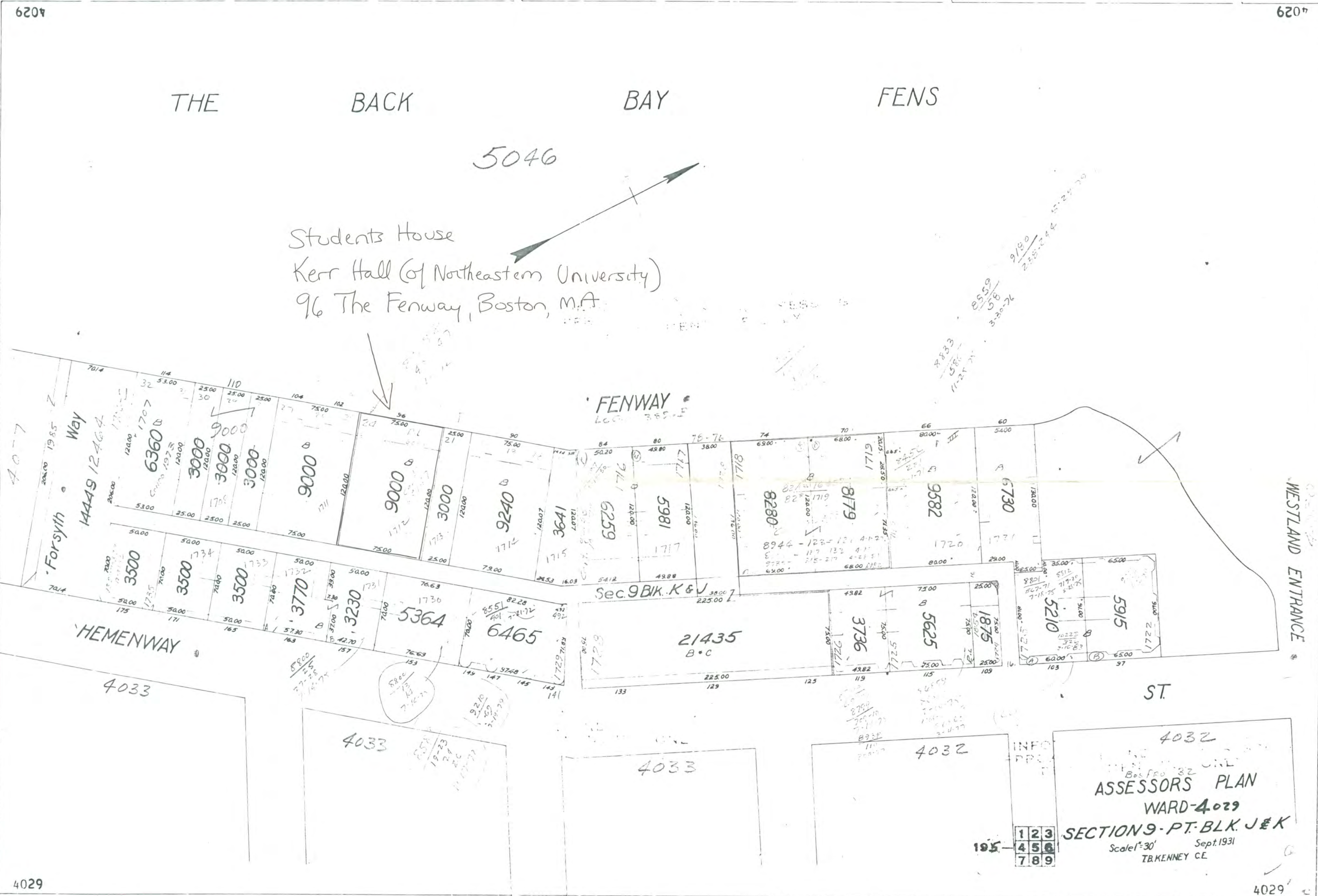
ISBN 0-607-00135-6
9 780607 001356

Topographic Map Symbols

Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road, trail
Route marker: Interstate; U. S.; State
Railroad: standard gage; narrow gage
Bridge: drawbridge
Footbridge; overpass; underpass
Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
House; barn; church; school; large structure
Boundary:
National, with monument
State
County, parish
Civil township, precinct, district
Incorporated city, village, town
National or State reservation; small park
Land grant with monument; found section corner
U. S. public lands survey: range, township, section
Range, township, section line, location approximate
Fence or field line
Power transmission line, located tower
Dam; dam with lock
Cemetery; grave
Campground; picnic area; U. S. location monument
Windmill; water well; spring
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
Distorted surface: strip mine, lava, sand
Soundings: depth curve
Perennial lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp
Land subject to controlled inundation; woodland
Sands; mangrove
Orchard; vineyard

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request.

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092



Students House
Kerr Hall (of Northeastern University)
96 The Fenway, Boston, M.A.

Students House
Kerr Hall
of Northeastern University
96 The Fenway
Boston, MA



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

24
July 17, 1997

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nomination for:

Students House, 96 The Fenway, Boston (Suffolk Co.), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of property in the Certified Local Government community of Boston were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 60-120 days before the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

cc: Northeastern University, c/o Centennial Office, owner
Thomas M. Menino, Mayor, City of Boston
Alan Schwartz, Chair, Boston Landmarks Commission
Maura FitzPatrick, Boston Landmarks Commission, CLG coordinator
Pamela Fox, Preservation Consultant