

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
30 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Valerie A. Talmage
Shpo, Mass.
12/22/87

DEC 28 1987

AREA

FORM NO.

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Town Cambridge

Address 14-16 Clinton Street

Historic Name George Gale House

Use: Present Residential (vacant)

Original Residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1853

Source Deed

Style Center Gable Italiane

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric asphalt shingle over
clapboard, flushboard

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (with dates)

Addition of bay windows, ca. 1894;
Addition of side pavilions, ca. 1925;
extension of front porch, ca. 1935

Condition some fire and vandal damage

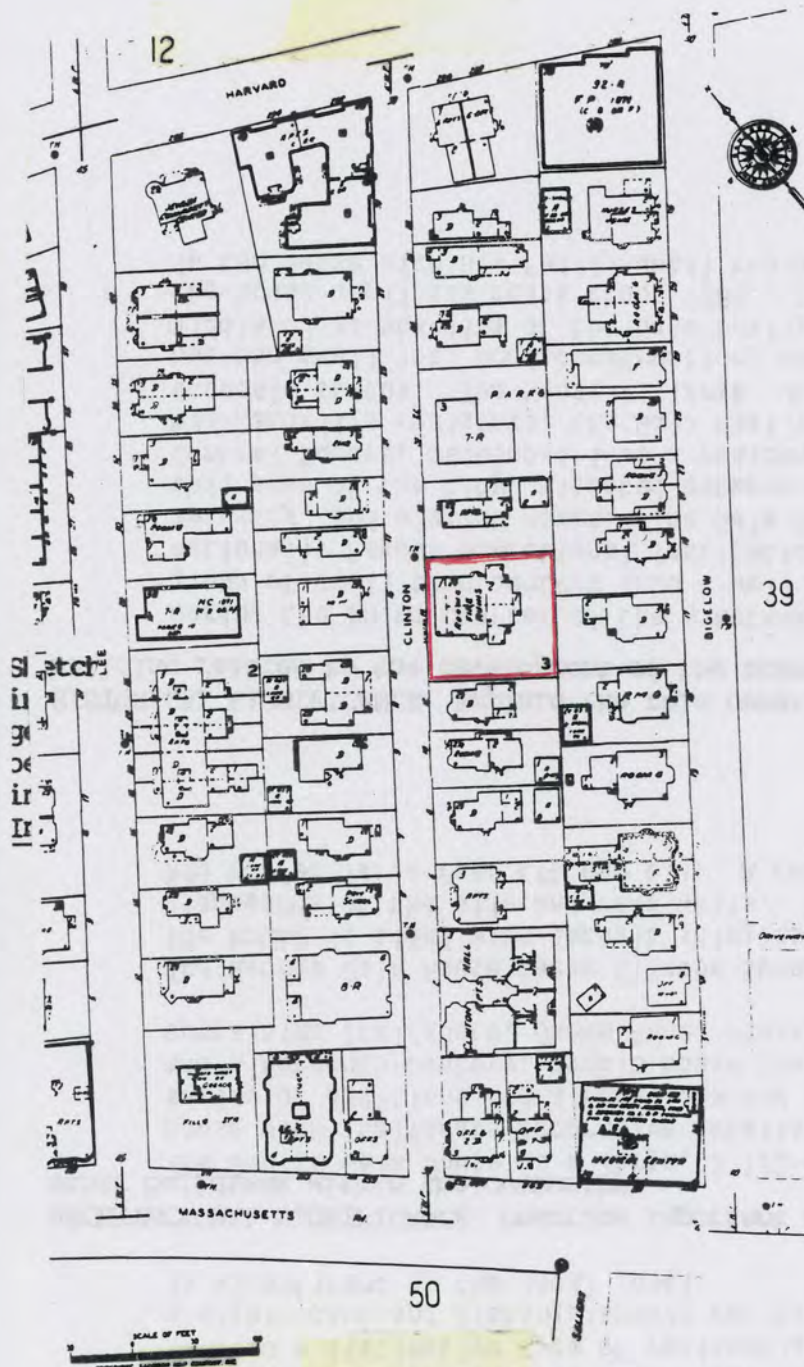
Moved N/A Date N/A

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Situated within quiet residential
urban neighborhood of detached single and
two-family homes of different architectural
styles.

Recorded by Jon A. MacClaren, Pres. Consultant
with Claire Dempsey,
Organization Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date July, 20, 1987



UTM REFERENCE 19/326520/4692580

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston south

SCALE 1:25000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The George Gale House possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association and meets criteria A and C for inclusion in the multiple resource listing of Historic Resources of Cambridge, MA. The house is located in the Dana Hill area of mid Cambridge which developed as a residential suburb of Harvard Square during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Built ca. 1858, in the Italianate style, the house is also a distinctive type of residential structure in Cambridge representing a significant and distinguishable entity worthy of recognition. This property is significant at the local level.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

The George Gale House is a large, 2 1/2-story, wood frame, center gable double house with Italianate decorative details. The building has evolved through a series of additions and alterations and is an important example of mid-nineteenth-century, double house construction, in an area of mid-Cambridge containing Italianate, Queen Anne, Mansard, Tudor, and Colonial Revival homes.

The George Gale House faces Clinton Street with a broad facade of four bays. The house is sided with asphalt shingles over a flushboard front facade and clapboards of the side and rear walls. The main block is gable roofed with a hip roofed large rear kitchen ell. A roof of asphalt shingles with cornice

see continuation sheet

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

During the third quarter of the nineteenth century, Cambridge changed from a group of small town centers into a well developed city complete with nationally famous educational institution, cultural attractions, thriving industry, and elegant homes. The Gale House is located in Mid-Cambridge and this area of the city, situated between Harvard University and commercial Central Square, developed into a residential neighborhood. Typical of most Mid-Cambridge residents, the Gale family built a home which reflected their economic status. The house is large, well-proportioned, and finely detailed; but the small lot, wood construction, and two-family design attest to the middle class standing of the Gale family. Father, George F. Gale, lived in the house until his death about 1888. Son, George W. Gale, continued to live in the house with his family until the mid-1890's.

see continuation sheet

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- "Cambridge, The Harvard Bridge", 1630 a Souvenir 1890, published by J. H. Corcoran & Co.
- "History of Middlesex County, MA", D. Hamilton Hurd, published by J. W. Lewis Co., 1890.
- Historic Resources of Cambridge, National Register of Historic Places multiple resource nomination, 1980.
- Cambridge Historical Commission, Survey of Mid-Cambridge, Ma.
- Cambridge City Directories, atlases, building department records.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Mid-Cambridge

Form No:

Property Name: George Gale House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Architectural Significance continued

returns and center cross gable is supported by large and ornate Italianate brackets. A pair of small, round arched windows is located under the center gable. The one-story porch originally sheltered only the two entrance doors, but has been extended across the entire front facade, the extensions constructed in the mid-twentieth century. The original porch is supported by detailed Italianate arches with center pendants. First story bays with round arched windows were added to the dining rooms in the late nineteenth century. Two rear additions were added early in the twentieth century, one story lateral extensions from the kitchen ell. Brick foundations support both the bay and additions, whereas, granite blocks support the structure of the original house.

Vertically divided in half by a brick fire wall, the two homes within this building are a mirror image of each other. Each side hall plan contains a front parlor, dining room, kitchen, and front and rear stairs on the first floor plus a one story addition between the kitchen and dining room. The first story of each house retains decorative finish which includes hardwood flooring, molded baseboards, plaster walls and elaborate plaster cornice moldings. Most rooms contain plaster medallions. The second story rooms, off a side hall, are detailed with baseboards, but no cornice moldings or medallions exist. Window frames are most elaborate on the first floor, but exist throughout the house and enframe windows containing two over two wooden sash. The attic is reached by rear stairs and three rooms are tucked in under the eaves of each house. Attic architectural detail is simple with its plain board baseboards and window frames.

The building was altered into a rooming house, in the 1930's, and interior partitions have sub-divided some rooms. The house is in poor condition with fire damage to the front porch, front flush board siding, front doors, windows, and front interior spaces of all floors. The house has been vandalized while vacant, most interior mantles and the north front stair newel post are missing. Even though damaged and neglected, the house retains a strong sense of nineteenth-century style, craftsmanship, and proportion which has not been destroyed.

The George Gale House reflects the rapid growth in Cambridge's population at the time it was built. Situated on an urban, quarter acre lot, the double house is a most efficient use of space. The side hall plan affords maximum privacy for residents yet the house does not appear at first glance to be a multi-family residence. The house reflects an aesthetic yet efficient design suited to the conditions of a city with fewer and fewer building lots and a burgeoning population. In addition, the architectural details and interior finish of the house reflect the involvement of the Gale family. These lumber dealers included fine wood detail in their large double house. Other center gable houses worthy of note such as 11-13 Clinton Street and 26 Maple Avenue are similar to the George Gale House. These three houses were built over a twenty year period and the center gable, broad facade with large windows and one story entrance porch are features common to all.

see continuation sheet

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Mid-Cambridge

Form No:

Property Name: George Gale House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical Significance continued

The George Gale House is located on Clinton Street, in the Mid-Cambridge area of the city of Cambridge. Once known as Dana Hill, this area was characterized in the eighteenth century by large landholdings. This street was part of the country estate of merchant Ralph Inman, a Tory whose property was confiscated during the Revolution, and whose home served as barracks. After the war, the estates in this area were subdivided as the area came to function as a residential suburb of Harvard Square. Clinton Street was laid out in 1831, but construction of dwellings did not begin until after 1854. In the next twenty years the number of houses in the area grew from about 200 to nearly 500. Like the other residents of the neighborhood, the Gales were prosperous businessmen.

The Gale family directly represented and were identified with the lumber supply business in Cambridge and were active as financiers, business and civic leaders. Father and son encouraged growth in their industry with innovative changes in transportation, storage, and inventory of lumber. The George W. Gale Lumber Company yard was the first dealership in Cambridge serviced by stean railroad. Gale built a rail spur line into his yard from the main tracks of the Boston and Albany Railroad. The addition of the spur to transport Gale lumber and supplies guaranteed timely deliveries and success for the company. A heated storage house of 50,000 square feet kept the kiln-dried lumber in perfect condition, another innovation at the Gale yard. The company was also able to offer wooden building frames, cut at the mill according to the building's plan, directly to the builder. George W. Gale Lumber Company became the largest retail yard in Cambridge selling 10,000,000 feet of all kinds of wood by 1890.

George F. Gale became involved in the building supply business as a partner in the firm of Burrage & Gale Company by 1847. Burrage & Gale were dealers in lumber, lime, and wood and were located at the corner of Broadway and Court Street on the North (or Broad) Canal. The building materials of wood and lime were essential for the construction of wood frame or masonry structures. By the time the Gale family had built their substantial and highly detailed house on Clinton Street, both father and son were working at Gale, Dudley and Company, located on Main Street in the Lower Port section of Cambridge (1861), a prime location for a business involved in building materials supply.

Throughout the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the Gale family remained important business leaders and became active in civic affairs. The Cambridge City Directory of 1873 lists George F. Gale as President of the National City Bank, and son George W. Gale as dealing in lumber. The Gale and Wood lumber dealership was located at 69 Main Street at West Boston Bridge. George F. Gale died around 1888, but at least two years before, by 1886, the Gale & Wood Company had grown into two lumber dealerships. The George W. Gale Lumber Company was located at 336 Main Street in Cambridgeport and advertised

see continuation sheet

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Mid-Cambridge

Form No:

Property Name: George Gale House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical Significance continued
on the front cover of the 1899 Cambridge City Directory. He offered kiln
dried floor boards and finish. The lumber yard was successful due to its
railroad access, drying house, and prominent location, was able to meet the
building supply demands of rapidly developing Cambridge. George W. Gale was
also a respected member of the Cambridge business community like his father
before him. The George W. Gale Lumber Company remained successful and kept
expanding until at least 1913. The lumber yard no longer exists.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Form No:

Mid-Cambridge

Property Name: George Gale House

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Archaeology

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded on the property, at least three known sites are in close proximity (within one mile). This factor and the location of the property near the Charles River indicates sites may be present. In general, however, the potential for prehistoric remains seems low, as a result of intense urban development in the area and the small size, less than one acre, of the house lot. These factors also indicate the potential for significant historic period survivals is low. Pre-ca. 1858 historic archaeological remains have been known to exist, in similar sites, though, in this case, they probably would have been destroyed by house construction.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 87002543Date Listed: 2/10/88Gale, George, House
Property NameMiddlesex
CountyMA
StateCambridge MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

2/10/88
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

The property is in private ownership.

Although not explicitly stated, the most applicable justified area of significance indicated by the documentation for eligibility under criterion A is industry for the Gale family's contribution to the development of the lumber industry in Cambridge and within the context of the historical associations of the Dana Hill residential neighborhood with the business/merchant class in the mid-nineteenth century.

This information was confirmed with Ann Tait, Survey & Inventory Coordinator, MASHPO, by telephone on February 2, 1988.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Cambridge MRA
Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

201. Harvard Yard Historic District in the
National Register

Keeper Alvin Byer 12/14/87

Attest _____

202. Gale, George, House

Substantive Review

for Keeper Patrick Andrews 2/10/88

Attest Bert L. Savage 2/10/88

203. Central Square Historic District

204. DeRosay--McMamee House

87002543
SLR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Gale, George, House (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Working No. DEC 28 1987
Fed. Reg. Date: 7-7-89
Date Due: 1/28/88 + 2/11/88
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2-10-88
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Locally important property type,
the double house, excluded in the
Platinate model and possessing
historical associations with the
Gale family and the mid-19th-c.

Recom./Criteria: Accept A+C
Reviewer: Swager
Discipline: Architectural History
Date: 2/2/88
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below
merchant/business class
of the residential Dana Hill
neighborhood.

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	
	☐ unaltered	
	☐ altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



George Gale House
14-16 Clinton Street
Cambridge, MA

Photo # 1 of 4

View of southwest corner of house.

photographer - John MacClaren
February 1986

negative - Sue + David Lollo
17 Clinton St., Cambridge



George Gale House
14-16 Clinton Street
Cambridge, MA

Photo # 2 of 4

View of house from southeast.

photographer - John MacClaren
February 1986

negative - Sue & David Lollo

17 Clinton St., Cambridge



George Gale House
14-16 Clinton Street
Cambridge, MA

Photo #3 of 4

View of Front facade.
(northwest side of house)

photographer - John MacClaren
February 1986

negative - Sue and David Rollo
17 Clinton St., Cambridge



George Gale House
14-16 Clinton Street
Cambridge, MA

Photo #4 of 4

Detail of front facade.
(northwest side of house)

photographer - John MacClaren
February 1986

negative - Sue + David Rollo, 17 Clinton St. Cambridge

GEORGE GALE HOUSE
14-16 CLINTON STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MA
Quad: Boston South
Scale 1:25000
UTM Reference:
19/306500/492580

George Gale House

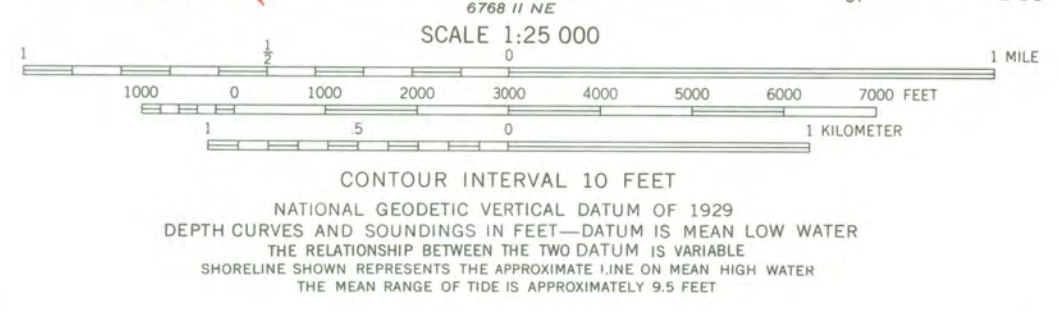
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



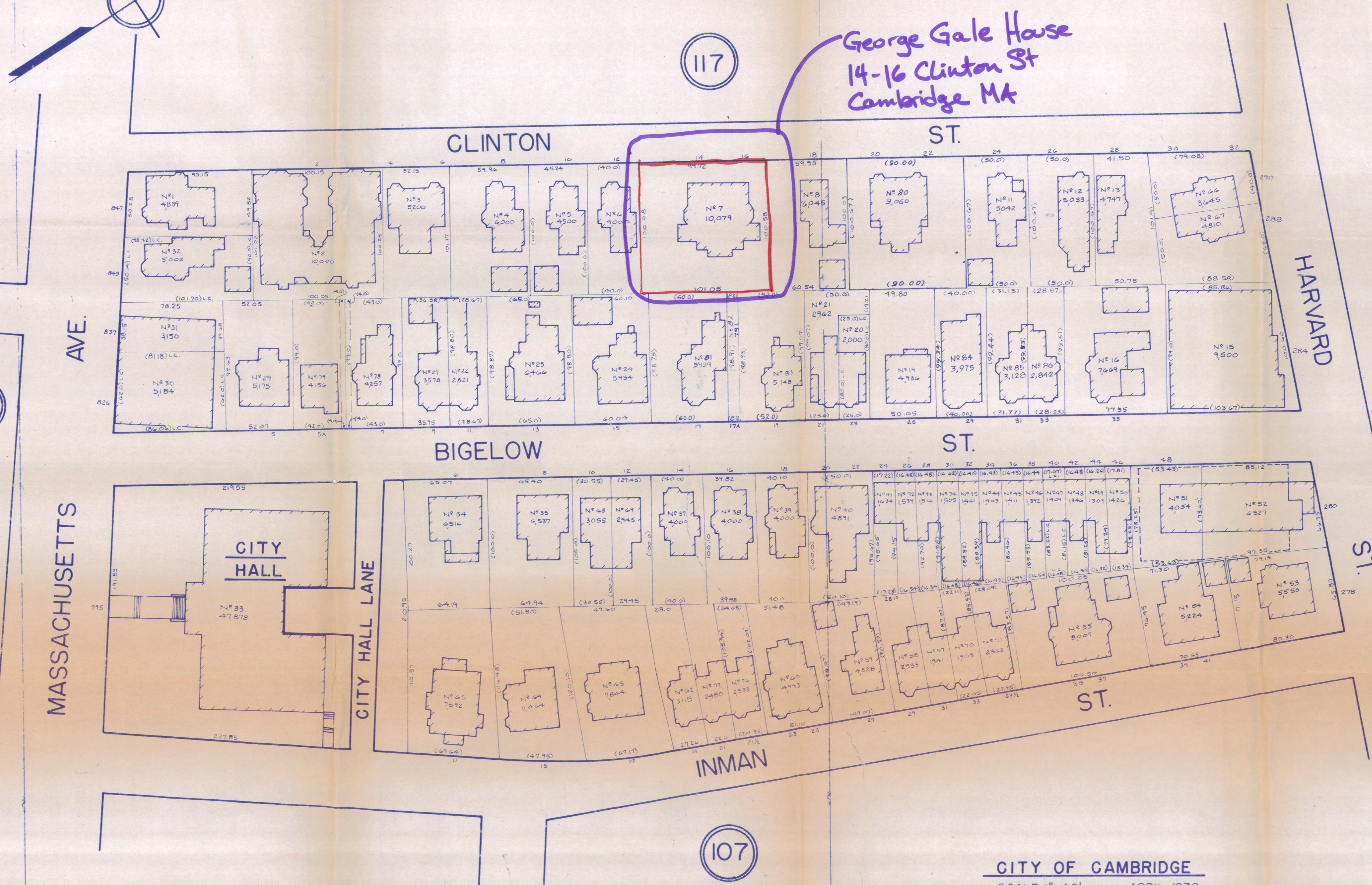
Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational
purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



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

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 1 SE—SERIES V814

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with the State of
Massachusetts agencies from aerial photographs taken 1975 and other
source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1979

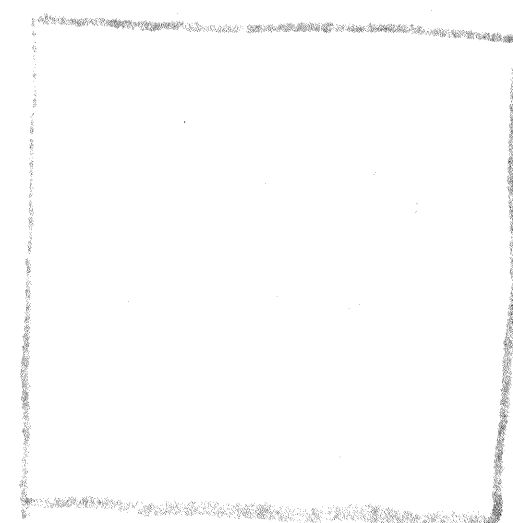


George Gale House
14-16 Clinton St
Cambridge MA

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

SCALE: 1"=40' APRIL-1978
DIMENSIONS FROM DEED, LAND COURT
OR LAYOUT PLANS ARE IN BRACKETS ()
LAND COURT MARKED L.C. ALL OTHER
DIMENSIONS ARE MEASURED.
DRAWN BY: AL THOMPSON

14-16 Clinton





P-534 920375

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission

Valerie A. Talmage

Executive Director

State Historic Preservation Officer

December 22, 1987

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 you will find the nomination forms for the following properties:

Adams, Hoosac Street School, 20 Hoosac Street

Boston (Jamaica Plain), District 13 Police Station, 28 Seaverns Avenue

Cambridge (Cambridge MRA), George Gale House, 14-16 Clinton Street

Shelburne and Buckland, Shelburne Falls Historic District

They have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. No comments have been received to date.

Sincerely,

Betsy Friedberg

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

BF/es

Enclosure

DEC 28 1987