

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Form numbers in this area
Old Cambridge

Area no.
001.6

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")

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Photo number 1096-20A

" - 21A
" - 22A
" - 25A
" - 27A
" - 29A

1. Town Cambridge

Name of area (if any) Harvard Houses

National Register District

3. General date or period generally 1913-
1930

4. Is area uniform (explain):

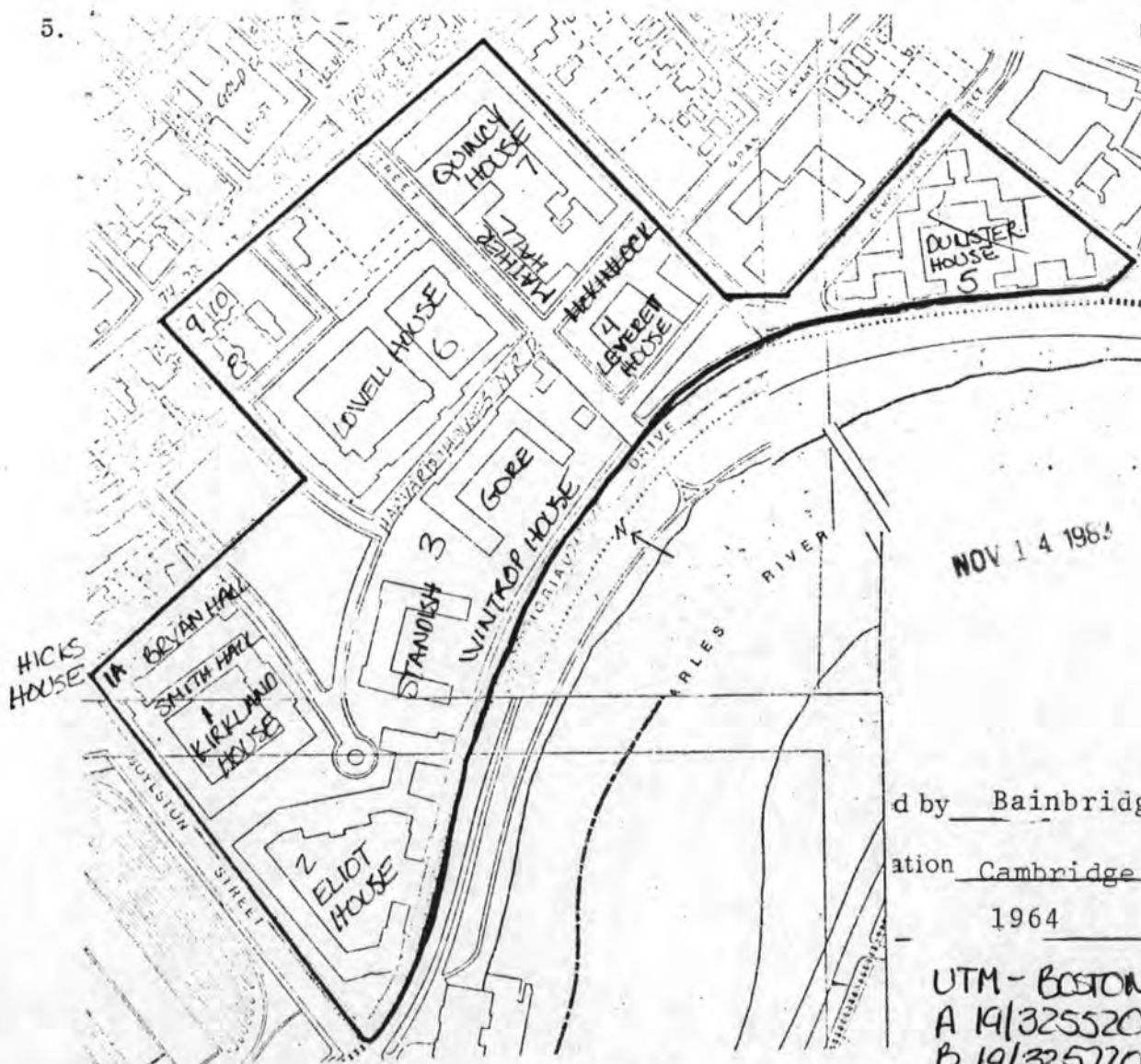
in style? primarily Georgian Revival

in condition? yes, good to excellent

in type of ownership? yes, private

in use? yes, residential

5.



any historic
ng corres-
dicate north.

d by Bainbridge Bunting

ation Cambridge Historical Comm

1964

UTM - BOSTON SOUTH
A 19/325520/4693020
B 19/325720/4692900
C 19/325720/4692550
D 19/325720/4692800

20.475 ACRES

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The twenty-four year term of office (1904-1933) of A. Lawrence Lowell as president of Harvard College was a period of enormous physical change for the school. More building construction took place during this time than during the combined terms of all previous administrations. Not only was there acceptance of the Georgian Revival style of architecture, but the administration recognized the need for comprehensive planning. As a result a new architectural order emerged throughout the extended campus. This architectural unity would stem from the emphasis on the Georgian tradition of the school's oldest buildings.

The most spectacular achievement of the Lowell regime, from both an architectural and policy perspective was the creation of the house system. The development of this system resulted in a vast building program along the riverfront. It was carried out with gifts totalling over \$13 million from Edward Harkness. In contrast to President Eliot, who believed students should be responsible for their own living and social arrangements, President Lowell returned to the earlier Harvard concept of "cohabiting for Scholastical communication," and advocated housing both students and faculty so they could live and study together.

The houses along the Charles River form one of Greater Boston's majestic sights. Looking more like palatial residences than college dormitories, the buildings are set among trees which unite them as a group yet preclude visual competition between individual structures. Several towers are visible among the treetops, and the houses open toward the riverfront and parkway. The large structures fronting the river are harmonious yet individualistic. All were designed by the architectural firm, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge and its successors, within a seventeen year period and all were named for Harvard presidents.

In an attempt to extend the atmosphere of Old Harvard Yard to a new South Yard, the architecture of the Old Yard was imitated. There would be no reproduction of specific old buildings, because the new ones were much larger in scale. However, each house is sited in a distinctive way and borrows details from a specific model. Kirkland House uses the twin-chimneyed gable linked by a parapet found on Massachusetts Hall. McKinlock Hall features the stepped gable, volutes and paired oculus windows of the Old State House in Boston. The recessed entries with pilasters superimposed on rusticated jambs of Hollis Hall

8. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

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Community:	Form No:
Old Cambridge	OC I.6
Property Name: Harvard Houses NRD	

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

were copied in the Old Yard on Mower and Lionel Halls and later at McKinlock. The florid scroll work from the pediment of Holden Chapel is used in simpler form at Dunster House. The pedimented pavilion on a hip-roofed elevation found on Harvard Hall is used at Standish Hall. Gore Hall recalls the opulent garden facade of Hampton Court Palace as rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren in the seventeenth century.

1. Kirkland House (1913), Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge

Kirkland House is composed of Smith and Bryan Halls, and is a conservative Georgian design with a profusion of ornament typical of the early 1900s. The enclosed main courtyard is formal and symmetrical. Bryan Hall and the Master's residence were added in 1931 by Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott. The John Hicks House is the companion library.

1a. John Hicks House (1762)

This simple one-room deep gambrel-roofed house was built by John Hicks on land he purchased in 1760. The house originally stood at 64 Dunster Street, and was moved to its present location at 64 Boyston Street in 1928. The Hicks House is a representative eighteenth century Puritan dwelling, small and conservative in design. The central chimney and cramped, three-run stairs are characteristic features. According to Hicks family tradition, John Hicks participated in the Boston Tea Party. He was shot by retreating British soldiers after the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775.

2. Eliot House (1930), Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott

Eliot House uses an irregular plot to great advantage. Built around a polygonal central court yard, it is one of the best designs of all the Harvard Houses. This dormitory is grouped into tall pavilions and low connecting wings. The tower was derived from New York City Hall (1802). The south side of the complex opens toward the river with a monumental gate. The handsome concave facade is an introduction to Harvard for those approaching from the river.

3. Winthrop House (1913), Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge

This dormitory is formed by Gore and Standish Halls, which are tied together by a handsome wrought iron fence. Gore is wider and has a more elaborate seven-bay limestone facade with engaged columns. This contrasts with the red brick used elsewhere in the South Yard. The windows of Gore Hall are of graduated sizes, based on English Palladian antecedents.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

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Property Name: Harvard Houses NRD	

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

4. McKinlock Hall (1926), Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott

This elaborate U-shaped dormitory demonstrates the historic frame of reference the Shepley office was using for Harvard buildings by the mid 1920s. In 1930, McKinlock was enlarged and was joined to Leverett Library and Towers in 1959.

5. Dunster Houses (1929), Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch and Abbott

This ingeniously planned, enormous, symmetrical building stands on a small irregular lot. The heavy forms and large scale are reminiscent of English eighteenth century prototypes. Three pediments, with heraldic shields and ornate scrolls recall the Holden Arms of the Chapel given to Harvard in 1742.

6. Lowell House (1929), Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott

Lowell House is the largest and handsomest of all the houses. It consists of two quadrangles completely enclosed by massive buildings. The entrance is under the tower where the block of the buildings is at its greatest height: four stories; a raised cornice and a high basement.

7. Quincy House (1958), Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott

Quincy House was the first of the new houses, following the traditional plan of blocks of living quarters placed around a courtyard. Modern design replaces the Georgian Revival of the earlier houses, but the use of red brick and limestone trim has been continued. Quincy House is composed of four main sections: the main dormitory block, the library, the commons building and Mather Hall was originally part of Leverett House, but was annexed to Quincy when Leverett Towers were opened.

8. Owl Club (1905), James Purdon, 30 Holyoke Street

The Owl Club is a brick neo-Georgian structure that predates its neighbor, Lowell House, by a quarter of a century. The Owl Club was one of the first clubs to infiltrate the area south of Mount Auburn Street. Purdon was also the architect of the Delphic Club on Linden Street.

9. Phoenix-S.K. Club (1915), Coolidge and Shattuck, 72 Mount Auburn St.

The Phoenix-S.K. Club is neo-Georgian, rather than Adamesque like its neighbor, the Iroquois Club. The offset entrance is set

continued

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Old Cambridge	Form No: OCI.6
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Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

beneath a broken scroll pediment. Other notable features include the round-arched second-story windows and the end chimneys linked by a parapet.

10. Iroquios Club (1916), Warren & Wetmore, 74 Mount Auburn Street

The Iroquios Club was inspired by the Boodles Club in London. Warren & Wetmore, a New York firm, had previously designed the New York Yacht Club, Grand Central Terminal and other notable structures, as well as Westmorly Court of Adams House.

The Harvard Houses National Register District includes properties on Memorial Drive, Plympton Street, De Wolf Street, Grant Street, Winthrop Street, Holyoke Street and Dunster Street (see Cambridge Community Development P. D. Quad Map 9). Its boundaries were selected to include the dormitories erected by Harvard for its House plan of residency plus surviving buildings from the area's earlier development.

The Harvard Houses National Register District represents a significant and distinguishable entity of imposing Georgian Revival dormitories which represent a major building campaign under the leadership of President Lowell (1904-1933) and a return to the house system, and so meet criterion C.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Harvard Houses Historic District
 (Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)
 State, County: MA - Middlesex
 Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-2862

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 4/17/82

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Action: _____

☒ RETURN 6-10-82_____
REJECT _____

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

photos _____

maps _____

Substantive Review: _____ sample _____ request _____ appeal _____ NR decision _____

Reviewer's comments:

Return per agreement by MA. SHPO to resubmit to
 State Review Board.

because of its recent construction date and
 difference of architectural styling, ^{from the rest of the district} it does not
 appear that Quincy House should be considered a contributing
 element in this district

Recom./Criteria ReturnReviewer Patrick AndersDiscipline HistorianDate 6/10/82

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
 _____ substantive reasons discussed below

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
____ fair	____ unexposed	____ 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 _____

UNIT 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

Patrick Andrews

Signed W. H. Brannan

Date 10-10-82

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

80 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
	O.C. I 6

USGS Map: HH

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
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Photo number 46-10A
 13-25
 16-3
 80-19

Town Cambridge Mass.
 Cambridge MRA

Name of area (if any) Harvard Houses

Historic District

General date or period 1913-1930

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

(See Attached Map)

USGS Quad: Boston South
17.146 acres

UTM References:

A: 19/325910/4693500
B: 19/325700/4692340
C: 19/325200/4692800
D: 19/325340/4693000
E: 19/325620/4692980
F: 19/325780/4692760

Recorded by B. Bunting/T. Alduino

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm

Date 1964/1985

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

(See attached sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

(See attached sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge Mass. Cambridge NRA	Form No: O.C. I 6
Property Name: Harvard Houses	

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

Architectural Significance

The Harvard houses along the Charles River form one of Greater Boston's majestic sights. Looking more like palatial residences than college dormitories, the early buildings are set among trees which unite them as a group yet preclude visual competition between individual structures. Several towers, both classical and modern, are visible among the treetops, and the houses open toward the riverfront and parkway. The large structures fronting the river are harmonious yet individualistic. Even the later modern towers are set in a system of open spaces and paths which unite the residences at the ground level. The early undergraduate houses were designed by the architectural firm, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge and its successors during President Lowell's administration, 1909-1933. The house buildings which are less than fifty years old were designed by the successor to the same architectural firm. Peabody Terrace, the only residential complex which does not house undergraduate students, was designed by Josep Luis Sert.

In an attempt to extend the Georgian atmosphere of Old Harvard Yard to a new South Yard, the architecture of the Old Yard was originally imitated. There was no reproduction of specific buildings, because the new ones were much larger in scale. However, in the houses built before 1930, there are borrowed details from specific models.

Kirkland House uses the twin-chimneyed gable linked by a parapet found on Massachusetts Hall. McKinlock Hall features the stepped gable, volutes and paired oculus windows of the Old State House in Boston. The recessed entries with pilasters superimposed on rusticated jambs of Hollis Hall were copied in the Old Yard on Mower and Lionel Halls and later at McKinlock. The florid scroll work from the pediment of Holden Chapel is used in simpler form at Dunster House. The pedimented pavilion on a hip-roofed elevation found on Harvard Hall is used in Standish Hall. Gore Hall recalls the opulent garden facade of Hampton Court Palace as rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren in the seventeenth century.

In Quincy House, Peabody Terrace and Mather House, Georgian references were eliminated altogether and a modern architectural style was used. However, even these modern designs included defined courtyard open space and became a part of the towered riverside silhouette. In fact, the riverside location is the greatest asset of all of these residential complexes presenting a strong image along the sweeping curve of the Charles River between Larz Anderson and the Western Avenue bridges.

The Eliot/Kirkland House quadrangle includes Eliot and Kirkland House, Standish Hall and the Indoor Athletic Building. The oldest building in this area is the John Hicks House. The Hicks House is a representative

Continued

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge Mass Cambridge MRA	Form No: O.C. I 6
Property Name: Harvard Houses	

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

Architectural Significance (cont'd)

eighteenth century Puritan dwelling, one room deep, with gambrel roof. Small and conservative in size, the central chimney and cramped, three run stairs are characteristic features. Anchoring the quadrangle and the western edge of the River Houses is Eliot House (1930, Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch and Abbott). One of three Harvard Houses built as a unit instead of incorporating earlier structures, it uses an irregular plot to great advantage. Built around a polygonal courtyard, Eliot House is grouped into tall pavillions with low connecting wings. The tower was derived from New York City Hall (1802). The south side of the complex opens toward the river with a monumental gate. The handsome concave facade is an introduction to Harvard for those approaching from the river. Kirkland House is composed of Smith Hall (1913, Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge) and Bryan Hall and the master's residence (1930, Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch and Abbott) joined when the house system was instituted. A conservative Georgian design, Smith Hall displays a profusion of ornament typical of the early 1900's.

Likewise, Winthrop House is comprised of Standish and Gore Halls (1913, Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge), originally built as freshman dormitories and joined together by a handsome wrought iron fence. Gore Hall is wider and has a more elaborate seven-bay limestone facade with engaged columns. This contrasts with the red brick used elsewhere in the South Yard. The windows of Gore Hall are of graduated sizes, based on English antecedents.

The Indoor Athletic Building (IAB) (1939, Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott) serves as the athletic facility for the river houses. Designed in the same neo-Georgian style as its neighboring houses, the IAB's five stories, separated by three prominent string courses, are successfully disguised. Very large, arched windows are used for the first and second floors, small square ones for the intermediate zone of the third floor, and large windows without arches light the fourth and fifth floors. Small panes of uniform size are used throughout. As a result, the IAB matches its neighbors in size and scale.

The jewel in the crown, Lowell House (1929, Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott) is the largest of all the houses. Consisting of two quadrangles completely enclosed by massive walls, the house is dominated by its entrance tower, which rises atop four stories, a raised cornice and a high basement. Lowell House is the center-piece of its area despite the fact that there is no shared quadrangle as there is at Eliot House.

Quincy House (1958, Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott) was the first of the new houses. Following the traditional plan of blocks of living quarters placed around a courtyard, Quincy House's modern design

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Cambridge Mass.
Cambridge MRA

Form No:

O.C.
I 6

Property Name: Harvard Houses

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

Architectural Significance (cont'd)

replaces the Georgian Revival of the earlier houses, but the use of red brick with limestone trim has been continued. Quincy House is composed of four main sections: the main dormitory block, the library, the commons building and Mather Hall, originally part of Leverett House. In 1958, one range of rooms in Mather Hall was demolished to open the building to the new garden courtyard. Although Quincy House is less than fifty years old, it is an integral part of the house district. The placement of the two larger blocks along streets carrying traffic ensures a quiet garden courtyard facing to the southwest. Since the library is on stilts and does not fill the entire width of the corridor between the two dormitory sections, the vista is not entirely closed off, thereby extending the sense of space at the south end of the garden, a feeling enhanced by changes in level of a terrace against the main building. As such, the modern structures of Quincy House contributed to the district. Furthermore, Quincy House carried on a tradition from Kirkland and Winthrop Houses of combining new additions with older buildings to create a residential complex. Quincy House provides a transition between the old and new architecture in the River House District. Although modern in style, it does not clash with the older buildings in terms of massing.

McKinlock Hall (1926, Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott), originally a freshman dormitory, was expanded and became Leverett House with the inception of the house system in 1930. It repeats the basic U-shape of the other older buildings. Leverett House Library and Towers (1958-59); (Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott) was built as an adjunct to Leverett House. Leverett Towers was the first high-rise building at Harvard. A two-story gate pavillion serves as a transitional link between the new towers and the older McKinlock Hall on the other side of DeWolfe Street. The landscaping and siting of the towers is the finest aspect of the design. The towers themselves are not tall enough to soar but, rather, seem to compete with the older ones.

Counterbalancing Eliot House at the other end of a curve in the river is Dunster House. The massing of this enormous symmetrical building on its small triangular lot is especially skillful. The heavy forms and large scale are reminiscent of English eighteenth century prototypes. Dunster House was designed by Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott in 1929.

Harvard's newest house is Mather (1967-68; Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott). Like adjacent Dunster House, Mather occupies a triangular site but, architecturally, the building is more similar to Peabody Terrace than to the older houses. However, the walls near Dunster House are sheathed in brick while most of the rest of the building is concrete. The complex consists of four elements: a 21-story tower;

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

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Cambridge MRA

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I 6

Property Name: Harvard Houses

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

Architectural Significance (cont'd)

a series of 5-story wings that wrap around a trapezoidal courtyard; the commons; and the master's pavillion at the corner of Bowles and Flagg Streets. The design of Mather House presents a modern and dramatic appearance.

In 1963 when the University undertook its first building project to house graduate students, a riverside site near the undergraduate houses was selected. Sert, Jackson & Gourley designed Peabody Terrace in a very modern style. Four years later, when the University decided to build Mather House, it returned to the architectural firm that had designed the other undergraduate residence. But Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott designed a building more like Peabody Terrace in style than its own earlier designs for the other houses. In contrast to the aggressive silhouette of the three high-rise towers at Peabody Terrace, the surrounding lower buildings and courtyards of the Mather complex create a sequence of spaces which contributes to the character of the University's riverside residential district. Viewed from the river, the tower silhouettes form an imageable part of the district as well.

The River House National Register District includes a significant and distinguishable entity of imposing Georgian Revival dormitories to which later dormitory and apartment complexes, built in a modern style, have been added. All of the buildings are linked by their relationships to open space along the river and within defined courtyards. While there are four Harvard residential buildings that must be counted as non-contributing because of their age alone (Quincy House, the Leverett Towers, Mather House and Peabody Terraces) all of these buildings are significant for their associations and relationship to the Harvard House system.

Historical Significance They should be reevaluated for their status once they have reached 50 years in age.

Until the turn of the century, the area that is now occupied by the Harvard Houses was a working class neighborhood, while the river frontage was largely undeveloped except for coal and lumber yards. After Memorial Drive (originally Charles River Road) was completed, this marginal property became valuable. Under the Presidency of A. Lawrence Lowell (1909-1933) the district was developed into the Harvard House system. In contrast to President Eliot, who believed students should be responsible for their own living and social arrangements, President Lowell returned to the earlier Harvard concept of "cohabitating for Scholastical communication", and advocated housing both students and faculty so they could live together. Lowell's scheme, which was carried out with gifts totaling \$13 million from Edward Harkness, marked a new era in comprehensive planning for the University. In addition to residential and eating facilities, the plan included construction of an athletics building as well. The undeveloped triangle between Kirkland House and Lowell House is not a planned open space and was not part of Lowell's scheme.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge Mass. Cambridge MRA	Form No: O.C. I 6
Property Name: Harvard Houses	

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

Historical Significance (cont'd)

President Lowell's house scheme which was implemented in 1930 was expanded under subsequent Presidencies to reflect changing architectural styles as well as the changing housing needs of the University. Peabody Terrace thus brought graduate students into the Harvard residential environments along with the faculty associated with individual undergraduate houses.

In addition to the Harvard Houses, three other buildings of earlier date within the district are of historical significance. The John Hicks House (1762) was moved from its original location at 64 Dunster Street to 64 Kennedy Street where it now serves as the Kirkland House library. According to Hicks family tradition, John Hicks participated in the Boston Tea Party. He was shot by retreating British soldiers after the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775.

Only two buildings survive among the Harvard Houses that recall the area's nineteenth century history of wharves, light industry, and working class housing. The house at 101-103 Plympton Street is a simple workers' cottage dating from 1870 with minimal Italianate detailing. Its high basement attests to the time when the Charles River was tidal and the banks were subject to flooding. On the other hand, 11 Riverview Avenue, a Colonial Revival house of 1899, is significant for its associations with the brief period between the construction of the Charles River Road after 1895 and the purchase of the area for Harvard houses in the 1920's, when the traditional riverfront industries were abolished and the banks of the Charles became a landscaped parkway.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge Mass. Cambridge MRA	Form No: O.C. I 6
Property Name: Harvard Houses N. R. D.	

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

Criteria For Evaluation

The Harvard Houses National Register District is marked by a significant and distinguishable entity of imposing Georgian Revival dormitories designed by one firm over a period of seventeen years. To this architectural entity were added modern buildings which reflect the architectural and planning trends at the University in subsequent periods. Even the later, more modern buildings form a cohesive part of the district in that linkage of open space and consideration for transitional architectural elements help to unify the area. Possessing integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling and workmanship, it meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. Initiated under the leadership of President Lowell (1904-1933), and expanded over the next 35 years, the district represents a major planned building campaign which established the House system of undergraduate education and contains an evolution of successive major building projects. The district meets Criterion A for its importance in understanding the planning and development for residential living first for the undergraduate student bodies and later for their graduate student tutors as well.

The Harvard Houses National Register District consists almost exclusively of Harvard buildings, most of them dormitories. Taking full advantage of their riverside location, the many towered buildings that face the curving sweep of the Charles between the Larz Anderson and the Western Avenue Bridges create a constantly changing interplay of forms. Away from the river, the houses form interior courtyards and open quadrangles.

The River Houses National Register District's boundaries were selected to include the dormitories erected by Harvard for its House plan of residency, plus surviving buildings from the area's earlier development plus the later more modern buildings added to the original 1930 houses. The Charles River forms a natural/man-made boundary to the south. To the northwest, the district abuts the commercial and institutional uses of Winthrop Street and, along Mt. Auburn Street, it touches the various Gold Coast dormitories and private clubs, all included in the proposed Harvard Square N.R.D.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:
Cambridge Mass
Cambridge MRA

Form No:

Property Name: Cambridge Multiple
Resource Area

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

Standard Bibliography - Cambridge Multiple Resource
Nomination

Bunting, Bainbridge, and Floyd, Margaret H., ed., Harvard, An Architectural History. Cambridge: The Belknap Press of Harvard University, 1985

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Report Three: Cambridgeport (1971)

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Zaitzevsky, C., with the advice of the Review Committee members, The Harvard University Study of Historic and Architectural Properties in the Environs of Cambridge, (April 1983 - December 1984)

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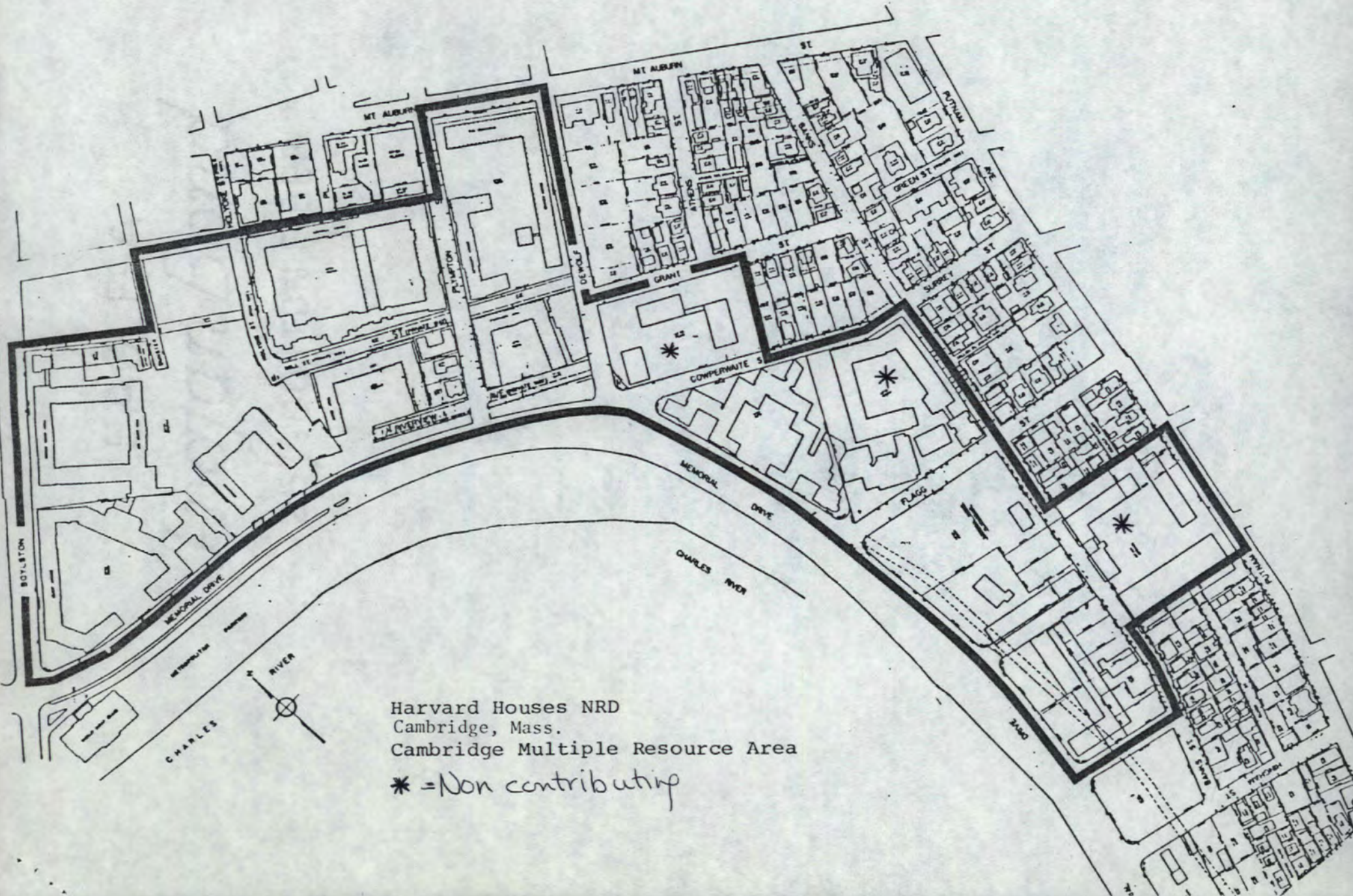
Harvard Houses National Register District Cambridge, Mass., Cambridge MRA

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE*	C/NC**
161, 76	Lowell House	10 Holyoke Place	1929	NG	C
162, 61	Indoor Athletic Building	35-41 Holyoke Street	1929	NG	C
163, 39	Smith Halls	70-78 Kennedy Street	1913	NG	C
163, 39A	Hicks House	64 Kennedy Street	1762	GG	C
131, 65	Dunster House	945 Memorial Drive	1929	NG	C
161, 77	Gore Hall	960 Memorial Drive	1913	NG	C
163, 39	Standish Hall	966 Memorial Drive	1913	NG	C
163, 40	Eliot House	967 Memorial Drive	1930	NG	C
161, 73	McKinlock Hall	8 Mill Street	1926, '30, '59	NG	C
161, 77	Leverett Towers	14-18 Mill Street	1958	MD	NC
161, 85	Quincy House	58 Plympton Street	1958	MD	NC
161, 85A	Mather Hall	68-88 Plympton Street	1930	NG	C
161, 57	NA	101-103 Plympton Street	1870	BI	C
163, 11	Bryan Hall	14-24 South Street	1930	NG	C
161, 58	NA	11 Riverview Avenue	1899	QA/CR	C
131, 70	Mather House	Cowperthwaite Street	1967	MD	NC
130, 144	Peabody Terrace	Memorial Drive	1958 1963	MD MD	NC NC

*GG=Georgian; BI=Bracketed Italianate; QA=Queen Anne; CR=Colonial Revival; NG=Neo-Georgian;
MD=Modern.

**C=Contributing; NC=Non-Contributing.



Harvard Houses NRD
Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge Multiple Resource Area

* = Non contributing

EXP. 12/31/84

For NPS use only

received

date entered

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 347

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

✓ 21. Harvard Houses Historic District

*owner objection
withdrawn*

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Patrick Andrews 9/12/86

Attest

John L. Savage 9/12/86

✓ 22. Harvard Square Historic District

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brannan

Attest

4.13.82✓ 23. Old Harvard Yard Historic
see #193 District (Boundary increase)

Substantive Review

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Harvard 10/6/82

Attest

✓ 24. Old Cambridge Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Robert A. Byers 4/13/82

Attest

Harvard

✓ 25. Winthrop Square Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

10/6/82

Attest

Harvard

✓ 26. Hubbard Park Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brannan 4.13.82

Attest

✓ 27. Fresh Pond Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

Reject 4.13.82

Attest

28. American Net and Twine Company
FactoryEntered in the
National Register

✓ Keeper

Delores Byers 4/1/82

Attest

29. Athenaeum Press

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brannan 4.13.82

Attest

30. Barnes, James B., House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William A. Brannan 4.13.82

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Harvard Houses Historic District (Cambridge
MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

JUL 30 1986

- ☒ resubmission *was done owner obj.*
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/12/88
Date Due: 8/28/88 - 9/13/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-12-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Reviewer's comments:

*Locally significant district planned and executed
under the leadership of Harvard's President
Howell in the Georgian Revival Style.
At the heart of the planned design
is Howell's "house" system of undergraduate*

Recom./Criteria Accept A+C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 7/12/86

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☒ technical corrections cited below *OK.*
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

*Return comments have
been adequately addressed*

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

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

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 _____

X Verbal boundary description and justification *Please provide Verbal boundary description or scale for sketch map. OK - scale is 1" = 80'.*

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: _____



Harvard Houses N.R.D.

Quincy House 22-23A

Cambridge MA, Ma



Harvard Houses N.R.D.

Cambridge MRA, Ma
Indoor Athletic Building

80-14



Harvard Houses N.R.D.

Cambridge M.A. Ma

Lowell House

16-29



Harvard Houses N.R.D.

Kirkland House 86-12

Cambridge MRA, Ma

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE

7/12/86

TIME OF CALL

2:10

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Sally Zimmerman

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

MASHPO
(617) 727-8470

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Cambridge MRA

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

University Museum - sending missing page
of description - excerpted
from Cambridge Inventory,
volume 4. OK to list.

Harvard Houses Historic District -

scale on sketch map is 1" = 80'
OK to list.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

B. Savage

TITLE

Architectural Hist.

OFFICE

Nat. Reg.