

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Massachusetts	
COUNTY: Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
FEB 6 1973	

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Harvard Yard			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION Congressional District 8			
STREET AND NUMBER: Massachusetts Avenue and Cambridge Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge			
STATE Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017



3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☒ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: President and Fellows of Harvard College			
STREET AND NUMBER: Massachusetts Hall			
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Middlesex County Registry of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Cambridge and Third Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Inventory of Historic Assets of Massachusetts			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Massachusetts Historical Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: Archives Museum, State House			
CITY OR TOWN: Boston	STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mass.	COUNTY: Middlesex	ENTRY NUMBER FEB 6 1973	DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY			

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)
☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed
 (Check One)
☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered ☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The district designated as Old Harvard Yard consists of a large, tree-shaded, roughly rectangular open space and smaller peripheral spaces to the west and south. Adjoining on the east are portions of Harvard Yard that developed after the designated district, achieving their present character in the twentieth century. The Old Yard's spaces are defined by freestanding buildings, most of which are three or four stories high and built of brick. The oldest building, Massachusetts Hall, dates from 1718; the other buildings that help define the principal space were built over the succeeding century and a half. The only twentieth century buildings, all of which are compatibly neo-Georgian in style, are on the periphery of the district, walling it off from surrounding traffic noise.

All the Old Yard's buildings are (or were built as) dormitories or academic buildings except Wadsworth House, a two-story, gambrel-roofed wooden dwelling built in 1726 as an official residence for Harvard presidents and used as such until 1849. Nearly all the Old Yard's buildings have been remodeled on the inside, but their exterior integrity remains intact.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☒ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☒ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☒ Engineering☐ Religion/Philosophy☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Science☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Sculpture☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Theater☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ Transportation☐ Communications☒ Military☐ Conservation☐ Music

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The impetus for the founding of Harvard College was the desire of early settlers to obtain a supply of learned ministers for their Congregational churches and of educated men to carry on the work of the civil government. Denied admission to English colleges and universities because of their Puritan beliefs, these settlers saw that their only recourse was to set up a college of their own and in 1636 the assembly of the Bay Colony provided a grant of \$400 for founding one. Two years later the college opened in Cambridge. It was named after its first benefactor, Rev. John Harvard who, dying at the age of thirty, left the college half his fortune and a library of 400 volumes. In 1650, Harvard College was given a charter by the Bay Colony which declared its purpose to be "the advancement of all good literature, arts and sciences."

Harvard College had no rivals in the English Colonies until the founding of the College of William and Mary in 1691 and of Yale in 1701 and in its development of the liberal arts curriculum in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries the college continued to set both the pace and the pattern for higher education in America. Thus, Old Harvard Yard contains one of the most important groupings of historic college buildings in the nation.

Eighteenth century buildings in Old Harvard Yard include:

Massachusetts Hall, built in 1718. This is the College's oldest existing building and has been designated a National Historic Landmark. During the 1930's the first story became the office of the university administration. The rest of Massachusetts Hall serves its original function as a dormitory;

Hollis Hall, which was constructed in 1762 by Thomas Dawes, master builder, and has always served as a dormitory. During the American Revolution, Hollis Hall served as barracks for troops, as did Massachusetts Hall;

Harvard Hall, built in 1764 by Thomas Dawes from designs by Governor Francis Bernard. It originally housed the college library, chapel, dining hall and classrooms (including a "philosophy chamber" for scientific experiments). The building remains an important example of Georgian architecture although the front facade has been somewhat altered by twentieth century alterations.

Nineteenth century structures in Old Harvard Yard include:

Stoughton Hall, built in 1804 by Thomas Dawes from designs by Charles Bulfinch. Although its massing was copied from Hollis Hall, Stoughton exhibits



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bail, Hamilton Vaughan. Viewsof Harvard. Cambridge, Mass, 1949. Passim.

Final Report of the Boston National Historic Sites Commission.
Washington, D.C., 1961.

Rettig, Robert Bell. Guide to Cambridge Architecture: Ten Walking Tours.
Cambridge, Mass., 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	42°	22'	30"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: c. 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Robert B. Rettig, Associate Survey Director

ORGANIZATION: Cambridge Historical Commission DATE: 9/29/69

STREET AND NUMBER:
57 Inman Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name John F. X. DAVOREN
JOHN F. X. DAVOREN
Title Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman,
Massachusetts Historical Commission
Date 5/3/72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert H. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 2/6/73

ATTEST:
Conrad M. ...
Keeper of The National Register

Date 1.29.73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 6 1973

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

characteristics of Bulfinch's Federal style, notably the flat wall surfaces;

3. University Hall, built in 1813 by Charles Bulfinch and designated a National Historic Landmark. Constructed to take over some of Harvard Hall's functions of chapel and commons, University Hall now contains administrative offices of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The John Harvard statue in front--an ideal portrait, since no likeness of the college's benefactor is known--is the work of Daniel Chester French;

4. Johnson Gate, and imposing neo-Georgian gateway, the earliest section of McKim, Meade and White's brick and iron fencing of Harvard Yard. Donated by various alumni classes and built during the years following 1889, the fencing helped give unity to the Yard's diverse buildings.

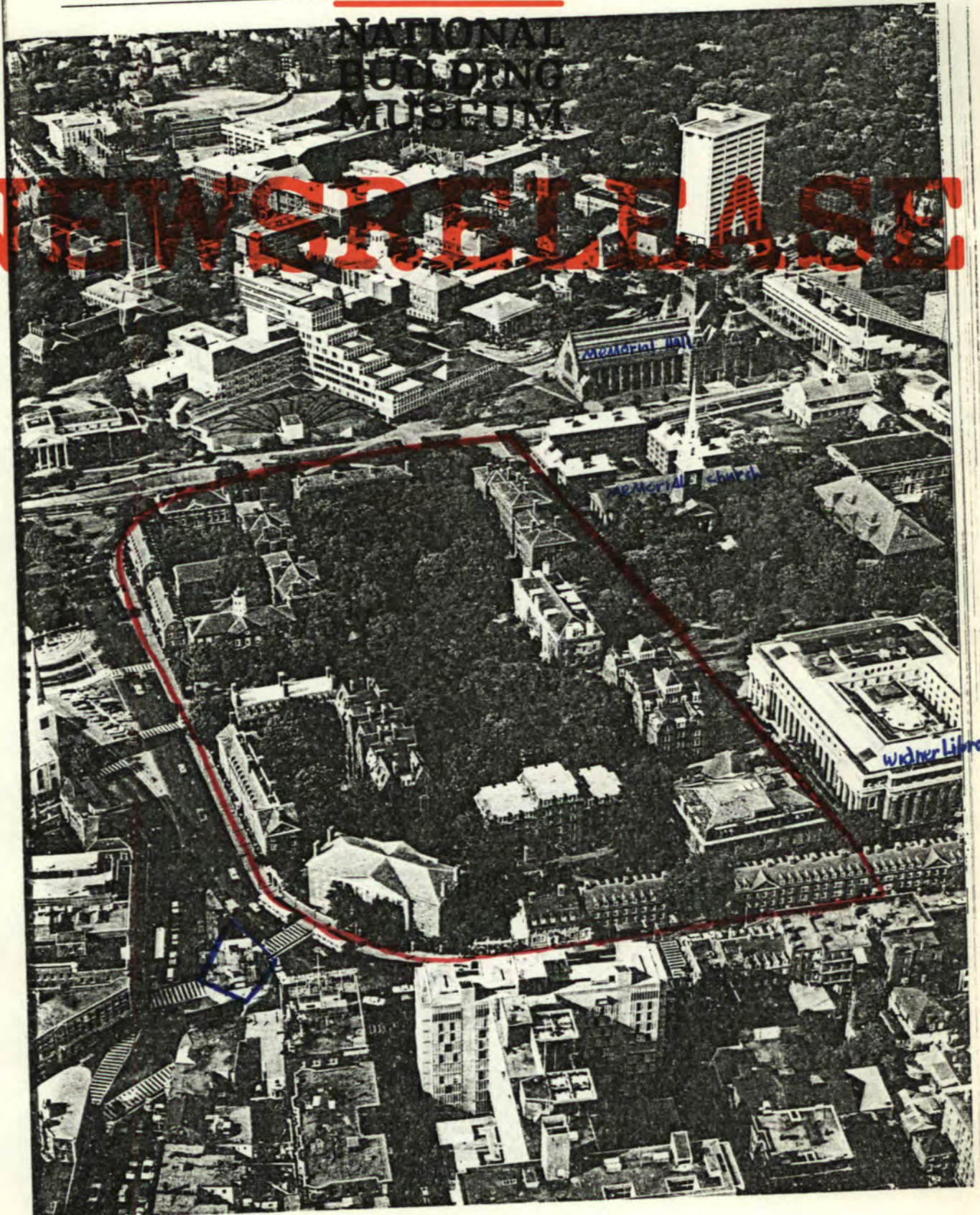
In addition to the historic and architectural values represented by the various buildings, the Old Yard itself is one of the finest man-made spaces in the country. The buildings of three centuries work together to create an area of character and tranquility just a few steps from the bustle of twentieth-century Harvard Square.



INTRODU

THREE CITIES

NATIONAL BUILDING MUSEUM



Square

Subway Station

Red = OLD Harvard Yard N.R. DISTRICT

Pension Building
440 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

HARVARD Square & Harvard Yard - facing NE

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W. Idleson

PROPERTY

OLD HARVARD YARD

STATE

Mass

DATE OF RECEIPT

5/18/72

YES

NO

NUMBER

REGISTER:

FEB 6 1973

DATA PAGE

PHOTO (S)

PHOTO DESCRIPTION (S)

MAP (S)

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

LOGGED

ACKNOWLEDGE

RESUBMIT

5/18/72

1
1

5/18/73

REVIEW

HISTORIAN

I wore knickerbockers when I was a boy, Betty.

Tech Review OK

OK
10/11/72
10/18/72

ARCHEOLOGIST

ARCHITECT

ASST. KEEPER

Includes a NTHL - OK By 1/29/73

KEEPER

WRITER/EDITOR

DIRECTOR, OAHP

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

Wonder whether J. Harvard would like to get some more stylish clothes!

OK
EDA
10/14/72

Federal Registry Entry

3/6

Annual Edition Entry

Logged

FEB 6 1973

Card

FEB 6 1973

COMMENTS:

WORKING NUMBER 5,18,72,723

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:



HARVARD YARD

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 2.6.73
Title: Old Harvard Yard
Loc: Middlesex Co. Mass.
View of Old Yard
To the westward
①

Harvard University News Office
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Negative No: HC 1929

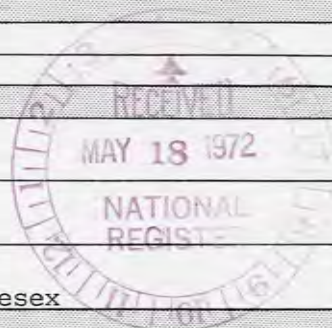
Date Taken:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 6 1973

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Harvard Yard			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Massachusetts Avenue and Cambridge Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Cambridge			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	025	Middlesex	017
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Harvard University News Office			
DATE OF PHOTO: none indicated			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Harvard University News Office			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of Old Yard to the northwest. Foreground: John Harvard statue. Background, left to right, Hollis Hall, Stoughton Hall, Holworthy Hall.			



Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE FEB 18 1973

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Harvard Yard			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Massachusetts Avenue and Cambridge Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge			
STATE: Massachusetts	CODE 025	COUNTY: Middlesex	CODE 017
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: prepared by Massachusetts Historical Commission staff from inventory form			
SCALE: approx. 1:600			
DATE: 1969			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Massachusetts	
COUNTY	
Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
RECEIVED MAY 18 1972	FEB 6 1972
NATIONAL REGISTER	

1. NAME

COMMON: Old Harvard Yard
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Massachusetts Avenue and Cambridge Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE:

Massachusetts

CODE

025

COUNTY:

Middlesex

CODE

017

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. Lexington, Mass., Newton, Mass., Boston North and Boston South, Mass.

SCALE: 1:24,000

DATE: 1956

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



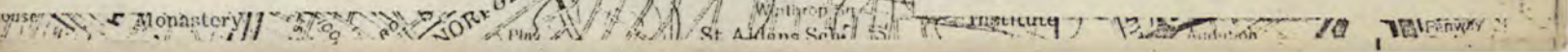
U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle
"Lexington, Mass." (1956)
Scale 1:24,000

U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle
"Boston North, Mass." (1956)
Scale 1:24,000



U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle
"Newton, Mass." (1956)
Scale 1:24,000

U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle
"Boston South, Mass." (1956)
Scale 1:24,000







The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Office of the Secretary
State House, Boston 02133

John F. X. Davoren

Secretary of the Commonwealth



May 8, 1972

National Register of Historic Places
Room 3209
1100 L Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005

CERTIFIED MAIL

Attention: Miss Mary Means

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed are National Register submissions for:

1. Old Harvard Yard, Cambridge, Massachusetts (Middlesex County).
2. Fruitlands Museums, Harvard, Massachusetts (Worcester County).

These have been declared eligible for submission by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, the State Review Board, and have been signed by Secretary of the Commonwealth, John F. X. Davoren, Chairman, Massachusetts Historical Commission and designated the State Liaison Officer.

Sincerely yours,

Richard W. Hale, Jr.
Acting Chairman
Massachusetts Historical Commission

RWH/akc

enclosures

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered Feb 6 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Blackstone Canal	Northbridge, Unbridge Worcester County
Hancock Town Hall	Hancock Berkshire County
Old Harvard Yard	Cambridge Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Robert Drinan
Hon. Silvio O. Conte
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

Director, Northeast Region

State Liaison Officer

Hon. John F. X. Davenport
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02133

Eds:

Includes Massachusetts
Hall - NHL.

HA