

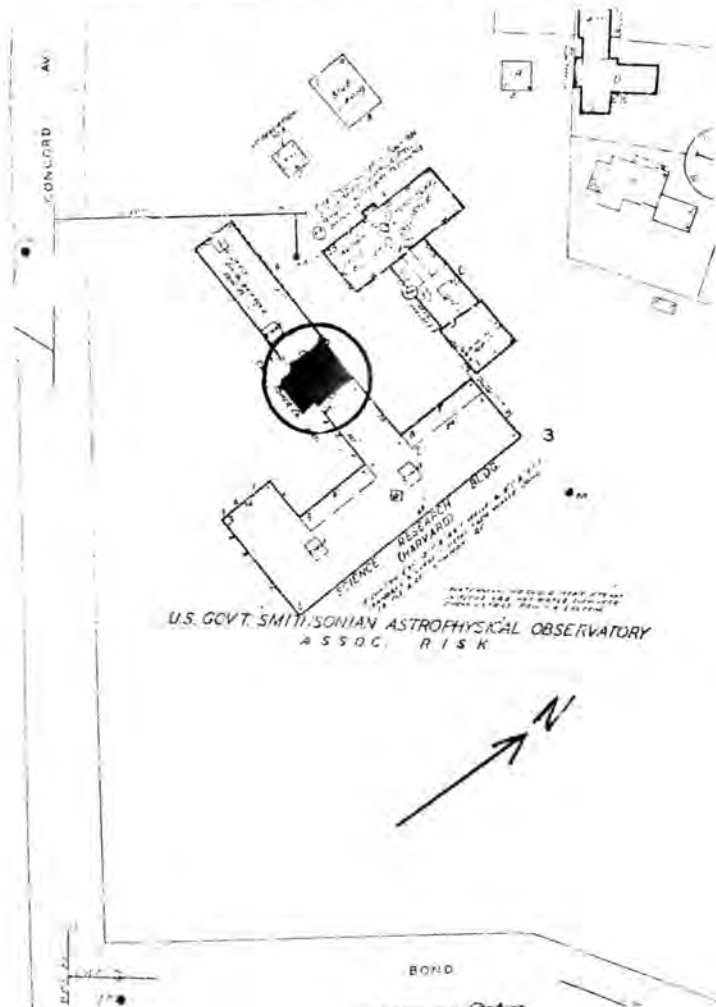
FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
Old Camb.	OC IIC1

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1099-12

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



1. Town Cambridge
Address Garden Street
Name Harvard Observatory - Sears Tower
Present use academic
Present owner Harvard University

3. Description:
Date 1843
Source deed records/Harvard history
Style Palladian
Architect Isaiah Rogers
Exterior wall fabric brick and wood
Outbuildings (describe) -----
Other features brick central section and
wooden end pavilions connected by
lower wings (wings removed).
Altered Yes- see above Date 1954, 1960
Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:
One acre or less XX Over one acre -----
Approximate frontage 150 Feet
Approximate distance of building from street
150 feet
6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting
Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.
Date 1964

UTM-LEXINGTON
19/324740/4694080

NOV 14 1971

Assessor # 227-90

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge MRA Cambridge, Mass.	Form No: O.C. II C I
Property Name: Harvard Observatory Sears Tower	

Architectural Significance

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

The Harvard Observatory, on Observatory Hill, is a large complex of interconnecting structures dating from 1843 to ca. 1970. Its focus is the Sears Tower, designed by Isaiah Rogers in 1843, and now part of Building A. Rogers' other local commissions include the rebuilding of the First Parish Church in Cambridge (1833-34) and the Tremont House (1828) in Boston. As originally planned, the Sears Tower was the central element in a five-part Palladian scheme, the geometric formality of which was enhanced by broadly overhanging cornices. The Astronomy Professor's residence to the east and the classrooms and library to the west, both built in 1851, were wooden pavillions connected by one-story passages to the central brick block of the Observatory. This concept was not unlike the arrangement at the nearby Botanic Garden, where the Botany Professor's house was connected to the Herbarium building and greenhouses.

Constructed of brick, the Sears Tower takes the form of a cube with a widely projecting cornice, topped by a hemispherical observation dome. On the facade (south) is a massive projecting pedimented pavilion containing an entry austere framed by pilasters, frieze and heavy architrave.

In its history, the Sears Tower has been encroached upon but not engulfed by modern additions to house the Observatory's growing functions and needs. The original entry through the pedimented pavilion and the heavy granite door framed have been blocked by later additions. The earliest surviving addition (Building C, 1892), by G. Leslie Nichols, is a two-story edifice with a modest Brick Panel cornice, which once stood free of the original observatory. Lower on the slope to the northwest is a three-story wing in the new-Georgian manner by Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott (Building D, 1931). A small wing by W. P. Hooper (Building A, 1954) immediately west of the Sears Tower replaced the original classroom and library wing. The space age and affiliation with the Smithsonian Observatory generated a burst of expansion beginning in the 1960s. Two sets of L-shaped buildings combine to form a courtyard and enfold the Sears Tower. The earlier of these wings, sheathed in brick and comparable to the west wing, was built in 1960 (Building B, Griswold, Boyden, Wilde & Ames); it replaced the east wing of the original observatory. The most recent additions are the Perkin Laboratory (1970, Cambridge Seven Associates) and Building E, which together form a second L and make a courtyard with Building B. Other buildings in the Observatory complex are an observation house, a small metal building containing a telescope, and a metal storage shed. All are less than 50 years old.

Continued

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge, MRA Old Cambridge, Mass.	Form No: O.C. II C 1
Property Name: Sears Tower, Harvard Observatory	

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

Historical Significance

A temporary observatory had been improvised in the Dana-Palmer house in 1839 after President Quincy persuaded William C. Bond to bring his equipment and become "astronomical Observer to the University", but it was four years later before the President, taking advantage of a swell of interest in astronomy caused by the Comet of 1843, was able to procure funds to build a permanent observatory. Operation of the new observatory was made possible by a bequest of \$100,000 by Edmund Phillips, a recent graduate of the college. It was equipped with a 15-inch equatorial telescope of the largest size then known, which was bought with funds raised by public subscription. Since its founding, the Harvard College Observatory has pioneered in the development of modern astronomy. Its first directors early recognized the potential of spectroscopy in revealing the constitution of the stars, and of photography in determining the positions and motions of celestial objects.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

7/30/66

7. Original owner (if known) Harvard University

Original use observatory, classrooms, library

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	<u>XX</u>	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>XX</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	<u>XX</u>
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

At the crest of Observatory Hill in Cambridge is part of the original 1843 observatory by Isaiah Rogers. Only the central block, called the Sears Tower, remains. It is crowned by a hemispherical observation turret. The original entry through the pedimented pavilion and heavy granite door frame has been blocked by later additions. The Sears Tower stands amidst structures of six later building periods and many styles of architecture.

The Sears Tower design followed a Palladian five-part scheme, with a brick central section and wooden end pavilions connected by lower wings. The dome housed the observatory, and the wings, removed in 1954 and 1960, housed classrooms, a library, and an astronomer's residence. It was the scene of numerous important astronomical discoveries.

The Observatory embodies the distinctive characteristics of Palladian classicism and so meets criterion C.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Cambridge Historical Commission, Survey of Architectural
History in Cambridge. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Report One: East Cambridge (1965)

Report Two: Mid Cambridge (1967)

Report Three: Cambridgeport (1971)

Report Four: Old Cambridge (1973)

Report Five: Northwest Cambridge (1977)

Cambridge Historical Society, Proceedings. Cambridge,
1906-present

Daughters of the American Revolution, Hannah Winthrop
Chapter, An Historical Guide to Cambridge. Cambridge, 1907

Gilman, A., ed., Cambridge of Eighteen Hundred and Ninety
Six. Cambridge: The Riverside Press, 1896

Paige, L.R., History of Cambridge. Boston: H.O Houghton and
Company, 1877

Paige, L.R.; Gozzaldi, M.I., ed., History of Cambridge
Supplement and Index. Cambridge: The Cambridge Historical
Society, 1930

Rettig, R.B., Guide to Cambridge Architecture. Cambridge:
The MIT Press, 1969

Stillman, W.J., ed., Poetic Localities of Cambridge. Boston:
James R. Osgood and Company, 1876

Woods, R.A., and Kennedy, A.J.; Warner, S.B., ed., The Zone
of Emergence. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1962

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)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

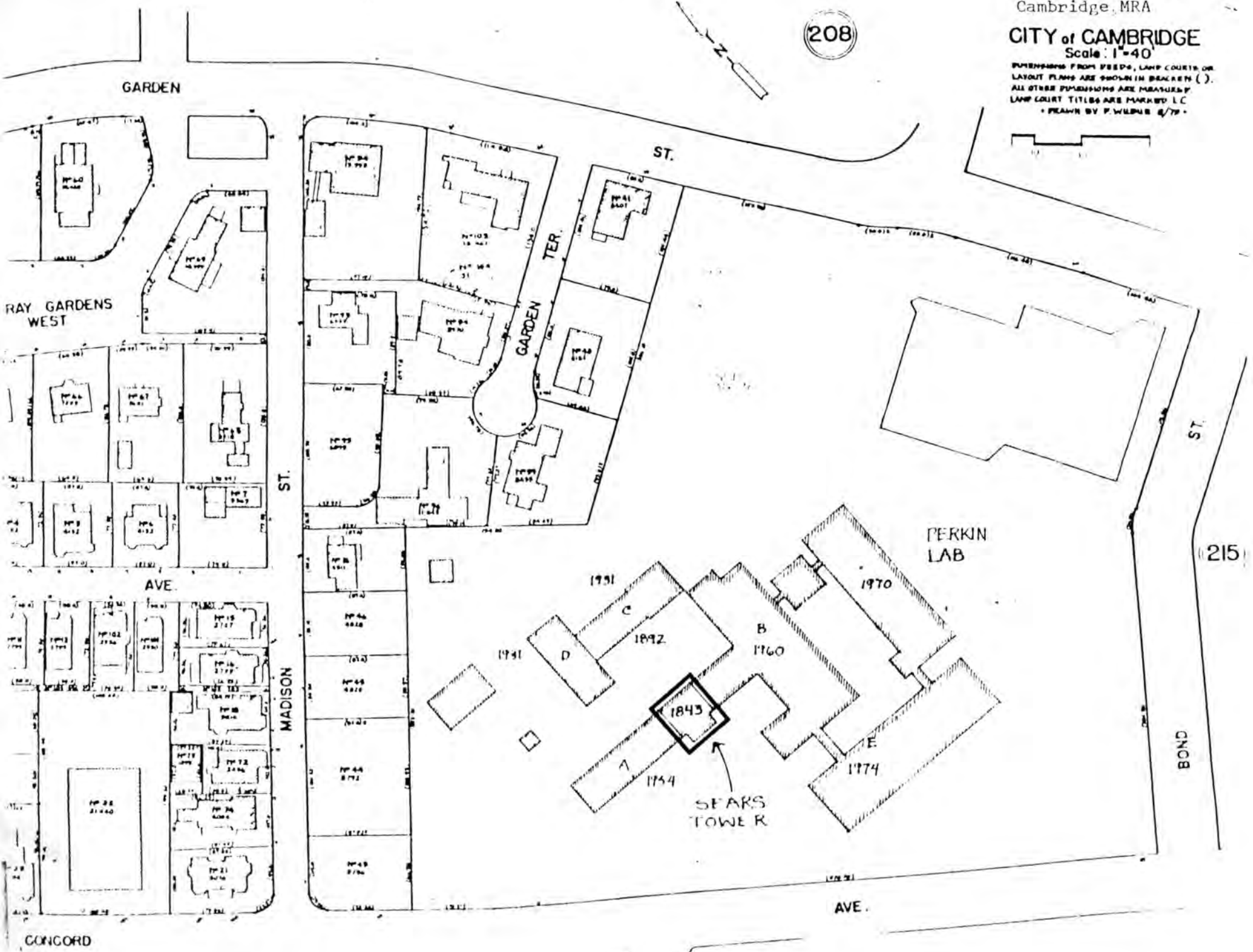
7/30/66

Harvard Observatory
Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge, MRA

208

CITY of CAMBRIDGE
Scale: 1"=40'

DIMENSIONS FROM FEET, LAMP COURTS OR
LAYOUT PLANS ARE SHOWN IN BRACKETS ().
ALL OTHER DIMENSIONS ARE MEASURED.
LAMP COURT TITLES ARE MARKED LC.
DRAWN BY P. WILSON 6/79



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Property: Harvard Observatory
State, County: MA - Middlesex
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-2862

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 4/17/82

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 6-10-82

REJECT

photos 1

maps _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

The N.R. does not list portions of buildings - from the map it appears that only the central block is being nominated. If resubmitted, the entire building (including modern wings) must be nominated. If resubmitted, please provide photos and a description of the entire building, and address the question of what effect the newer additions have had on the integrity of the observatory.

Recom./Criteria Return

Reviewer Patrick Andrus

Discipline Historian

Date 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	☐ 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 _____

UMT 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 Brannan

Date 6-10-82

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

USGS Map #6

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number 41-16

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

Town Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge, MRA

Address 60 Garden Street

Historic Name Sears Tower,
Harvard Observatory

Use: Present academic

Original academic

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1843

Source deed records/Harvard history

Style Palladian

Architect Isaiah Rogers

Exterior wall fabric brick and wood

Outbuildings NA

Major alterations (with dates) West wing
demolished and replaced 1954; east
wing demolished and replaced 1960.

Moved no Date NA

Approx. acreage .0082 acres

Recorded by B. Bunting/T. Alduino

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1964/1985

Setting The Observatory is located
at the top of a hill and dominates
its surroundings. There is still
considerable open wooded land on
the site. The Sears Tower stands
amidst later structures.

UTM 19/324740 4694080

USGS Quad: Lexington

(Staple additional sheets here)

7/24/16

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge MRA Cambridge, MA	Form No: O.C. II C I
Property Name: Harvard Observatory Sears Tower	

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

Architectural Significance, cont.

Despite its additions, the Sears Tower, which originally stood as a discrete unit, retains integrity of its neo-classical, Palladian-inspired design, as well as integrity of location, materials, workmanship and association. The original structure, which was visually separated from its outlying frame pavilions by low hyphen wings and which was materially distinguished from them by its brick construction, is still wholly evident as a fragment of the 1843 design.

Isaiah Rogers, the building's architect, worked closely with William Bond, the Director of the Observatory and an instrument maker and self-taught astronomer, to engineer a structure that would serve astronomers as conveniently as possible. The plan adopted for the engineering design of the structure ultimately was Bond's, as Rogers was not found to possess sufficient understanding of the needs of the structure. Primary among these was provision for the absolute solidity of the telescope to ensure accurate measurements. To this end, the foundations of the Observatory were sunk 26 feet below the surface. The hemispherical dome of the Observatory was constructed to allow full 360° rotation on a mechanism of eight iron balls laid in a track. These critical aspects of the design remain intact and in situ as do the original structure and finishes of the building's interior and exterior.

The distinctive characteristics, features and design of the building's interior and exterior set it off from the recent construction abutting it. One of the most significant aspects of the building is the fact that it retains its original telescope and all of its mechanisms and accoutrements. The telescope, a 15-inch "Great Refractor", was once the largest telescope in the United States and was the first to be used for photographic observations of the heavens, in 1848, very shortly after the introduction of daguerrotypy in this country. The telescope was constructed by Merz and Mahler, a Munich manufacturer of telescopes.

Functionally and architecturally, the Observatory remains intact and identifiable. As a significant early and intact observatory that retains all of its critical functional and design elements, the Harvard Observatory meets criterion C of the National Register on the local and state levels. The remaining buildings in the complex are non-contributing, either by reason of age or lack of association with the early period of the Observatory's development.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge, MRA, Old Cambridge, Mass.	Form No: C.C. II C I
Property Name: Sears Tower, Harvard Observatory	

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

Historical Significance

A temporary observatory had been improvised in the Dana-Palmer house in 1839 after President Quincy persuaded William C. Bond to bring his equipment and become "astronomical Observer to the University", but it was four years later before the President, taking advantage of a swell of interest in astronomy caused by the Comet of 1843, was able to procure funds to build a permanent observatory. Operation of the new observatory was made possible by a bequest of \$100,000 by Edmund Phillips, a recent graduate of the college. It was equipped with a 15-inch equatorial telescope of the largest size then known, which was bought with funds raised by public subscription. Since its founding, the Harvard College Observatory has pioneered in the development of modern astronomy. Its first directors early recognized the potential of spectroscopy in revealing the constitution of the stars, and of photography in determining the positions and motions of celestial objects. As such, it is significant under Criterion A.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

7/30/68

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Cambridge Historical Commission, Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Report One: East Cambridge (1965)

Report Two: Mid Cambridge (1967)

Report Three: Cambridgeport (1971)

Report Four: Old Cambridge (1973)

Report Five: Northwest Cambridge (1977)

Cambridge Historical Society, Proceedings. Cambridge, 1906-present

Daughters of the American Revolution, Hannah Winthrop Chapter, An Historical Guide to Cambridge. Cambridge, 1907

Gilman, A., ed., Cambridge of Eighteen Hundred and Ninety Six. Cambridge: The Riverside Press, 1896

Paige, L.R., History of Cambridge. Boston: H.O Houghton and Company, 1877

Paige, L.R.; Gozzaldi, M.I., ed., History of Cambridge Supplement and Index. Cambridge: The Cambridge Historical Society, 1930

Rettig, R.B., Guide to Cambridge Architecture. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1969

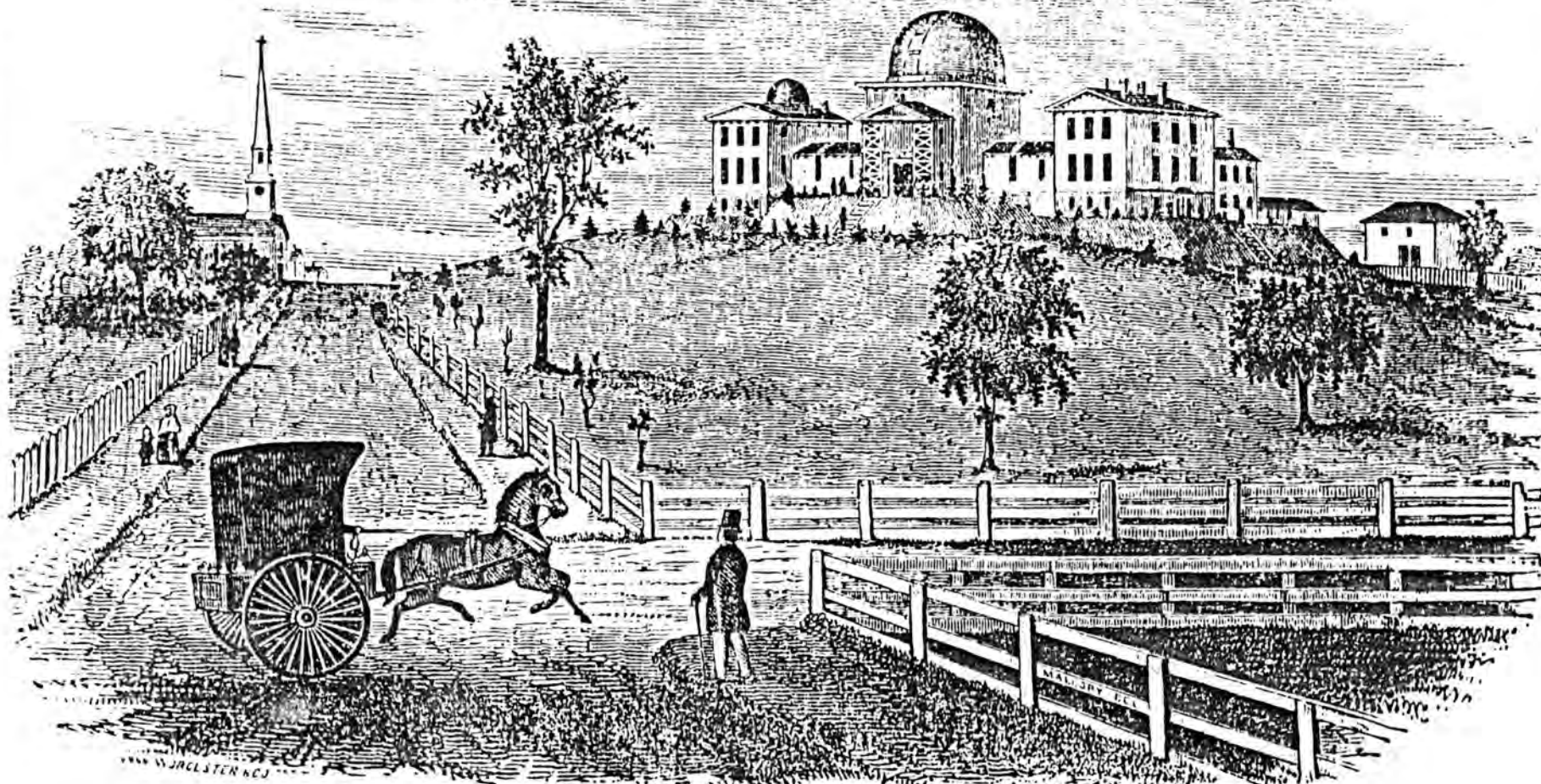
Stillman, W.J., ed., Poetic Localities of Cambridge. Boston: James R. Osgood and Company, 1876

Woods, R.A., and Kennedy, A.J.; Warner, S.B., ed., The Zone of Emergence. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1962

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)

Staple to inventory form at bottom

7/34



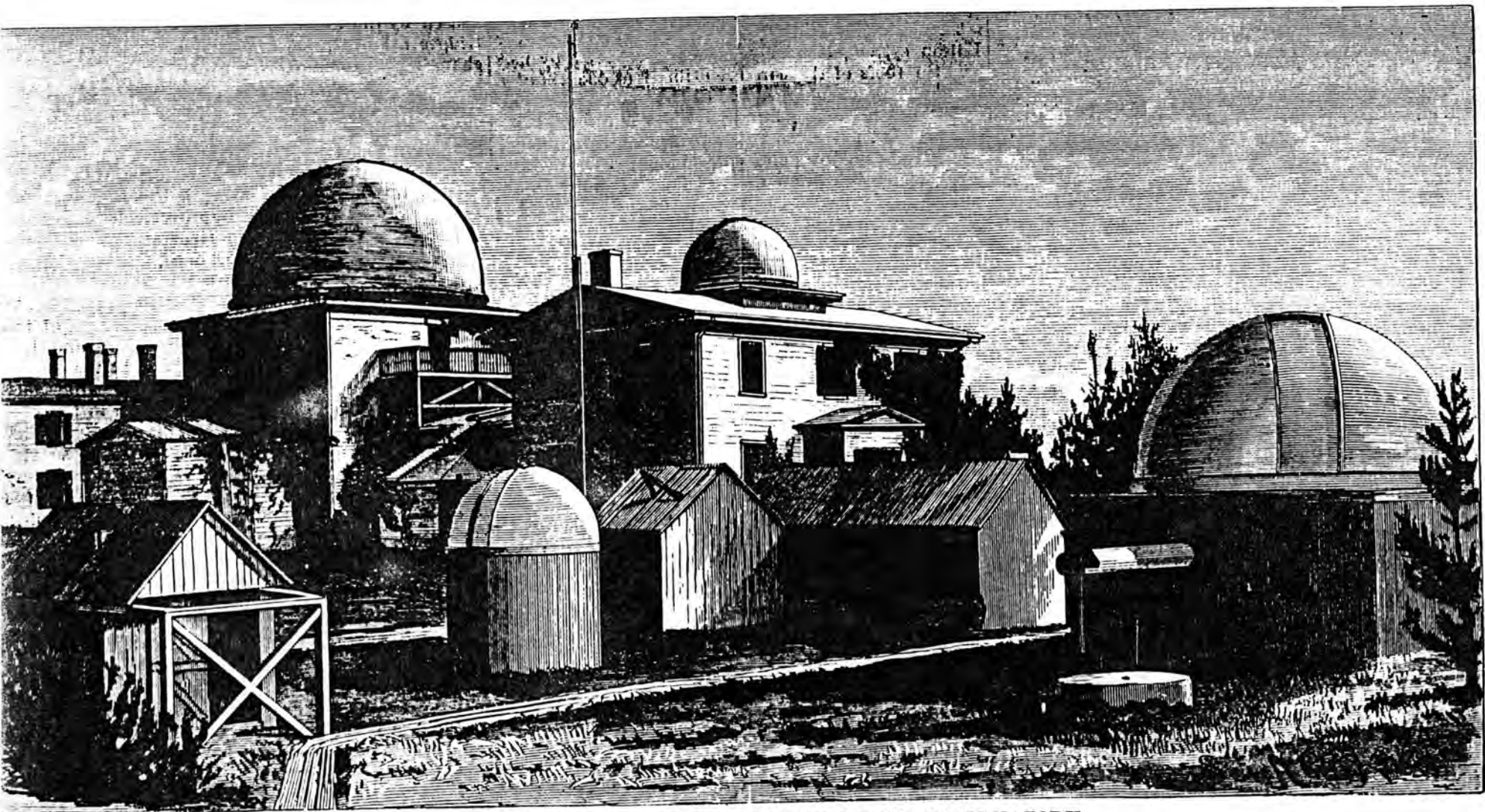
ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Astronomical Observatory, Cambridge, Mass. plans begun 1843,
started building in 1845. First salary paid in 1847.

Malloy, del. - Worcester & Co.

7/13/86



GENERAL VIEW OF THE HARVARD OBSERVATORY.

7/20/66

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Harvard Observatory (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

JUL 30 1986

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

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

see attached comments

Recom./Criteria Return
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Arch. Historical
Date 9/12/86
_____ 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

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ 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 _____

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 Beth Savage (202) 393-9550

Signed Patrick Anders Date 9/12/86 Phone: _____

REVIEW COMMENTS

Harvard Observatory (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County, MA

As evidenced from the sketch map and written description, the property as nominated represents only a portion of a building. The later additions have been described as non-contributing to the historical and architectural significance of the building; however, they have been excluded from the boundary. Delineating a boundary around a portion of a building does not meet National Register documentation requirements. Even if the modern wings were included in the boundary of the nominated property, it remains questionable whether the remaining original section of the observatory retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic and/or architectural significance.

Significance under criterion A has not been sufficiently justified. Please provide a defined period of significance applicable to the importance of the observatory under this criterion. Please provide further detailed information on specific important events or discoveries which occurred in the observatory and develop the historic context for the evaluation of such within the field of astronomy and/or education.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116



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M

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or
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ried
tion.

Town Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge, MRA

Address 60 Garden Street

Historic Name Sears Tower,
Harvard Observatory

Use: Present academic
Original academic

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1843

Source deed records/Harvard history

Style Palladian

Architect Isaiah Rogers

Exterior wall fabric brick and wood

Outbuildings NA

Major alterations (with dates) West wing
demolished and replaced 1954; east
wing demolished and replaced 1960.

Moved no Date NA

Approx. acreage .0082 acres

Setting The Observatory is located
at the top of a hill and dominates
its surroundings. There is still
considerable open wooded land on
the site. The Sears Tower stands
amidst later structures.

Recorded by B. Bunting/T. Alduino

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1964 1985

UTM 19/324740 4694080

USGS Quad: Lexington

(Staple additional sheets here)

h/16

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge MRA Cambridge, Mass.	Form No: O.C. II C I
Property Name: Harvard Observatory Sears Tower	

Architectural Significance

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

The Harvard Observatory, on Observatory Hill, is a large complex of interconnecting structures dating from 1843 to ca. 1970. Its focus is the Sears Tower, designed by Isaiah Rogers in 1843, and now part of Building A. Rogers' other local commissions include the rebuilding of the First Parish Church in Cambridge (1833-34) and the Tremont House (1828) in Boston. As originally planned, the Sears Tower was the central element in a five-part Palladian scheme, the geometric formality of which was enhanced by broadly overhanging cornices. The Astronomy Professor's residence to the east and the classrooms and library to the west, both built in 1851, were wooden pavillions connected by one-story passages to the central brick block of the Observatory. This concept was not unlike the arrangement at the nearby Botanic Garden, where the Botany Professor's house was connected to the Herbarium building and greenhouses.

Constructed of brick, the Sears Tower takes the form of a cube with a widely projecting cornice, topped by a hemispherical observation dome. On the facade (south) is a massive projecting pedimented pavilion containing an entry austere framed by pilasters, frieze and heavy architrave.

In its history, the Sears Tower has been encroached upon but not engulfed by modern additions to house the Observatory's growing functions and needs. The original entry through the pedimented pavilion and the heavy granite door framed have been blocked by later additions. The earliest surviving addition (Building C, 1892), by G. Leslie Nichols, is a two-story edifice with a modest Brick Panel cornice, which once stood free of the original observatory. Lower on the slope to the northwest is a three-story wing in the new-Georgian manner by Coolidge, Shepley, Bulfinch & Abbott (Building D, 1931). A small wing by W. P. Hooper (Building A, 1954) immediately west of the Sears Tower replaced the original classroom and library wing. The space age and affiliation with the Smithsonian Observatory generated a burst of expansion beginning in the 1960s. Two sets of L-shaped buildings combine to form a courtyard and enfold the Sears Tower. The earlier of these wings, sheathed in brick and comparable to the west wing, was built in 1960 (Building B, Griswold, Boyden, Wilde & Ames); it replaced the east wing of the original observatory. The most recent additions are the Perkin Laboratory (1970, Cambridge Seven Associates) and Building E, which together form a second L and make a courtyard with Building B. Other buildings in the Observatory complex are an observation house, a small metal building containing a telescope, and a metal storage shed. All are less than 50 years old.

Continued

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge MRA Cambridge, Mass.	Form No: O.C. II C I
Property Name: Harvard Observatory Sears Tower	

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

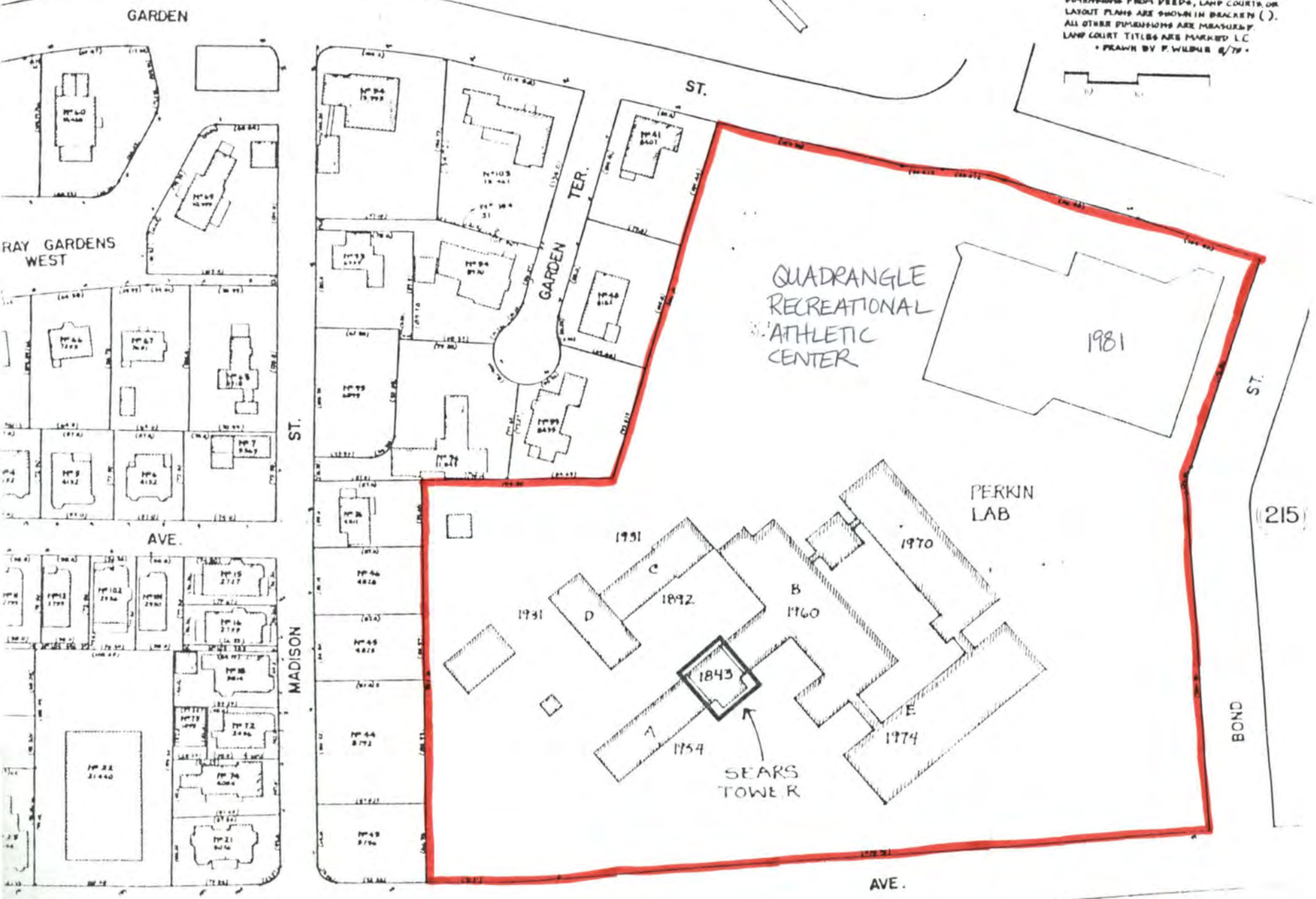
Architectural Significance, Cont.

Despite its additions, the Sears Tower, which originally stood as a discrete unit, retains integrity of its neo-classical, Palladian-inspired design. The Sears Tower is one of the few college observatories standing in the state (the other two are at Mt. Holyoke and Amherst). It is clearly visible within the mass of later building and retains its unique, identifiable design features, thus meeting Criteria C for listing to the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining buildings in the complex are non-contributing, either by reason of age or lack of architectural distinction. The Quadrangle Recreational Athletic Center (1981), located on the same parcel, is not being nominated to the National Register.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

CITY of CAMBRIDGE
Scale: 1"=40'

DIMENSIONS FROM SPEEDS, LAMP COURTS, OR
LAYOUT PLANS ARE SHOWN IN BRACKETS ().
ALL OTHER DIMENSIONS ARE MEASURED.
LAMP COURT TITLES ARE MARKED L.C.
* DRAWN BY P. WILBUR 8/79 *



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 14 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

131. Conventual Church of St. Mary
and St. John

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

132. Second Cambridge Savings
Bank Building

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Peter H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

133. Frost, David, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Peter H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

134. Howe House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Peter H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

135. Lowell, The

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Peter H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

136. Willis, Stillman, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

137. Second Waterhouse House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Peter H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

138. Harvard Observatory

SEARS TOWER -
owner objection
withdrawn

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Carol O. Hull 2-26-87

Attest

Betty L. Sarge 2-26-87

139. Almshouse

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

140. Lovell Block

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Peter H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sears Tower-Harvard Observatory
(Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

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

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal

Working No. 7/30/86
 Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/83
 Date Due: 2/26/87
 Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2-26-87
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Reviewer's comments:

Despite the encroachment of several large additions, the remaining ^{original} Observatory building retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic importance particularly due to the high degree of interior fabric & design and the retention of original telescope and "all of its mechanisms and accoutrements."

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

Recom./Criteria Accept C
 Reviewer Savage
 Discipline Architectural History
 Date 2/24/87

see continuation sheet

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category

Ownership

Public Acquisition

Status

Accessible

Present Use

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
☐ good
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ 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 _____

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: _____



↑ Harvard Observatory/
Sears Tower
Cambridge MA, Ma

60 Garden Street

41-16

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275



P 093 545 982

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 31, 1986

Beth Savage,
National Register of Historic Places,
National Park Service
P.O.Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Beth:

Enclosed is the re-submission of the Sears Tower, Harvard Observatory, a component of the Cambridge MRA. Corrections have been made to the boundary and significance under criterion A has been deleted since we had insufficient documentation to enumerate the facets of this aspect of the building's significance. I would like to stress, however, that the building, despite being a fragment, could not have more integrity than it does as it now stands, since it was originally the only part of its complex devoted to astronomical observation and since it is physically unaltered in its own right, retaining all possible aspects of functional design, including an historic telescope of great value.

If you have any questions about this submission, you should contact Betsy Friedberg of the MHC staff, since I will be leaving the MHC staff shortly. I have enjoyed working with you and will miss our phone conversations! Take care!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sally", written in dark ink.

Sarah J. Zimmerman
Director of Preservation Planning

/sjz
enc

JAN 12 1987