

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
MID CAMB.	MC II B 26

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1095-29

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



ASSESSOR # 136-11

1. Town Cambridge

Address 16 Prescott Street

Name Littlefield-Roberts House

Present use offices

Present owner Harvard University

3. Description:

Date 1873

Source deed records

Style Mansard

Architect Joseph Littlefield, builder

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features an iron-crested,

chateau-roofed corner tower adorns

the roofline; the columns and walls of first story imitate masonry.

Altered No Date -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre -----

Approximate frontage 50'

Approximate distance of building from street

12'

6. Recorded by E. MacDougall

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1966

UTM-BOSTON SOUTH
19/325940/4693140

Littlefield - Roberts House

7. Original owner (if known) Joseph Littlefield

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residential/offices

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This house is one of the finest examples of the Mansard style in Cambridge. The chateau-roofed corner tower and entrance porch with a hip roof supported by pairs of ringed columns are features characteristic of the 1870s. These columns and walls of the first story are scored to imitate masonry. Other noteworthy features are the linear incised detail and projecting cornice supported by elaborate brackets.

Joseph Littlefield, the architect/builder, retained ownership of the house until 1875 when it was sold to Orrin Roberts, a mason from Chelsea.

The Littlefield House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Mansard style as enumerated above and so meets criterion C.

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

NOV 1 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Littfield Roberts House

Building at 16 Prescott Street

Property: Cambridge Multiple Resource Area

State, County: MA - Middlesex

Federal Agency: _____

DDE/OWNER OBJECTION

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:

Returned per agreement by MA. SHPO to resubmit to State Review Board. Please explain what characteristics of this building make it a good example of its style in comparison to other local examples.

Recom. / Criteria Return
Reviewer Patrik 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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

for NPS use only

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

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT 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

Patricia Andrews

Signed

W.H. Brakman

Date

6.10.82

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	MG FORM NO.
Mid. Cam.	II B 26

USGS Map #22

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

Photo number 89-25

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.

SEE ATTACHED MAP

Recorded by E. MacDougall/T. Alduino

Organization Cambridge Historical Com.

Date 1966/1985

UTM 19/325940/4693140
USGS Quad: Boston South

(Staple additional sheets here)

Town Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge MRA

Address 16 Prescott Street

Historic Name Littlefield -
Roberts House

Use: Present residential
Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1873

Source deed and tax records

Style Mansard

Architect Joseph Littlefield,
builder

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings NA

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved no Date NA

Approx. acreage .1446 acres

Setting Set on a confined lot with paved driveways on either side and a parking lot to the rear, 16 Prescott Street faces the Harvard Yard Extension. Prescott Street

includes four mid-nineteenth century wood frame houses and three early twentieth century brick apartment buildings.

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

Constructed in 1873, 16 Prescott Street is a wood frame clapboard house rising two stories from a brick foundation to a low, slate mansard roof. Details include a wide frieze, corner boards, molded water table and mid-story beltcourse. The facade (west) is heavily ornamented with a bold side entry. This consists of a molded segmental frame with transom and narrow sidelights and a porch with paired rusticated columns on paneled bases supporting a bracketted mansard roof. Above this is a window with bracketted, pedimented entablature and 2/2 sash. South of the entry is a three-sided, two story bay which projects through the cornice to its own

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

Continued

Joseph Littlefield, the architect/builder, retained ownership of the house until 1875 when it was sold to Orrin Roberts, a mason from Chelsea. 16 Prescott Street is a quintessential example of the Mansard style of the 1870's in Cambridge. Retaining some of the plasticity of the 1860's in its entry and side window treatments, its vertical form and linear details are pure expressions of the period.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

SEE ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge, Mass. Cambridge MRA	Form No: II B 26
Property Name: 16 Prescott St.	

Littlefield Roberts House

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

Architectural Significance con't.

towered roof with iron cresting. This bay is flush boarded and contains narrow windows with stilted flat top arches, bracketted sills and 1/1 sash. The south elevation has a similiar bay at its rear and windows with segmental pediments below and triangular above toward the front. The north elevation follows a similiar window scheme with segmental pediments below and triangular above, but all are blocked. The house is extended by a rear ell with secondary entry on the south side. Roof bracketts have been removed.

This house is one of the finest examples of the late Mansard style in Cambridge. While earlier buildings retained a certain stability as the result of the heavy horizontal mass of the Mansard, 16 Prescott Street shows the trend in the 1870's toward a more pinched verticality and aggressiveness of outline in its chateau roofed bay and corner towers. The iron tower cresting and incised window caps are featured on other Cambridge houses such as 334 Braodway and 37 Arlington Street (although neither of these houses features both details). The walls of the bay and paired columns are scored in imitation of masonry, a technique used on earlier houses of the period (6 Maple Avenue, 1860 and 20 Sacramento Street, 1869). The Littlefield House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the Mansard style as enumerated above and so meets Criterion C.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Cambridge Mass.
Cambridge MRA

MC
II B 26

Property Name: 16 Prescott St.

L. McField - Roberts House

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

Bibliography/References

- Cambridge Historical Commission. Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge: Volume I, East Cambridge (1965), out of print.
Volume II, Mid Cambridge (1967), Cambridge, MA
Volume III, Cambridgeport (1971), Cambridge, MA
Volume IV, Old Cambridge (1973), Cambridge, MA
Volume V, Northwest Cambridge (1977), Cambridge, MA
- Cambridge Historical Society, Proceedings (1906-Present), Cambridge, MA.
- D.A.R., Winthrop Chapter, An Historical Guide to Cambridge (1907), Cambridge, MA.
- Gillman, A. (ed.), Cambridge of Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-Six (1896), Cambridge, MA.
- Paige, L.R., History of Cambridge (1877), Boston, MA.; Supplement (1930), Boston, MA.
- Rand, C., Cambridge, U.S.A. (1964), New York, NY.
- Rettig, R.B., Guide to Cambridge Architecture (1969), Cambridge, MA.
- Stillman, W.J. (ed.), Poetic Localities of Cambridge (1876), Cambridge, MA.
- Woods, R.A., and Kennedy, A.J. (Warner, ed.), Zone of Emergence (1962), Cambridge, MA.
- 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), Cambridge, MA.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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 9 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 81. Buildings at 15-17 Lee St. *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper William H. Bracham 4.13.82
Attest _____
- 82. Eliot, Charles M., House *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper Ret 6/10/82
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest Harvard
- 83. Sanders, Charles Hicks, House *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper William H. Bracham 4.13.82
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest Retained eligible
- 84. Jones, William R., House *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper Tom Kelly 6.30.83
Attest _____
- 85. ^{House} Building at 16 Prescott St. *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper Patrick Andrews 9/12/86
own objection withdrawn **DOE/OWNER OBJECTION**
Attest Beth L. Saorge 9/12/86
- 86. Dexter, D. Gilbert, House *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper Ret 6/10/82
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest Harvard
- 87. Keen, Alden T., House *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper Ret 6/10/82
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest Harvard
- 88. Bradbury, William F., House *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper Tom Kelly 6.30.83
Attest _____
- 89. Hyatt-Durant House *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper Ret 6/10/82
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest Harvard
- 90. James, William, House *Substantive Review* ✓ Keeper Ret 6/10/82
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Attest Harvard

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

#85
Littlefield--Roberts House
Building at 16 Prescott Street (Cambridge
MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Submitted via Xerox

JUL 30 1986

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/89
Date Due: 8/28/86 - 9/12/86
Action: ACCEPT 9-12-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission *was DOC owner obj.*
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Locally significant example of
mansard style residence.
Return comments have been
addressed.

Recom./Criteria Accept C
Reviewer Savage
Discipline Architectural History
Date 9/9/86
____ 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

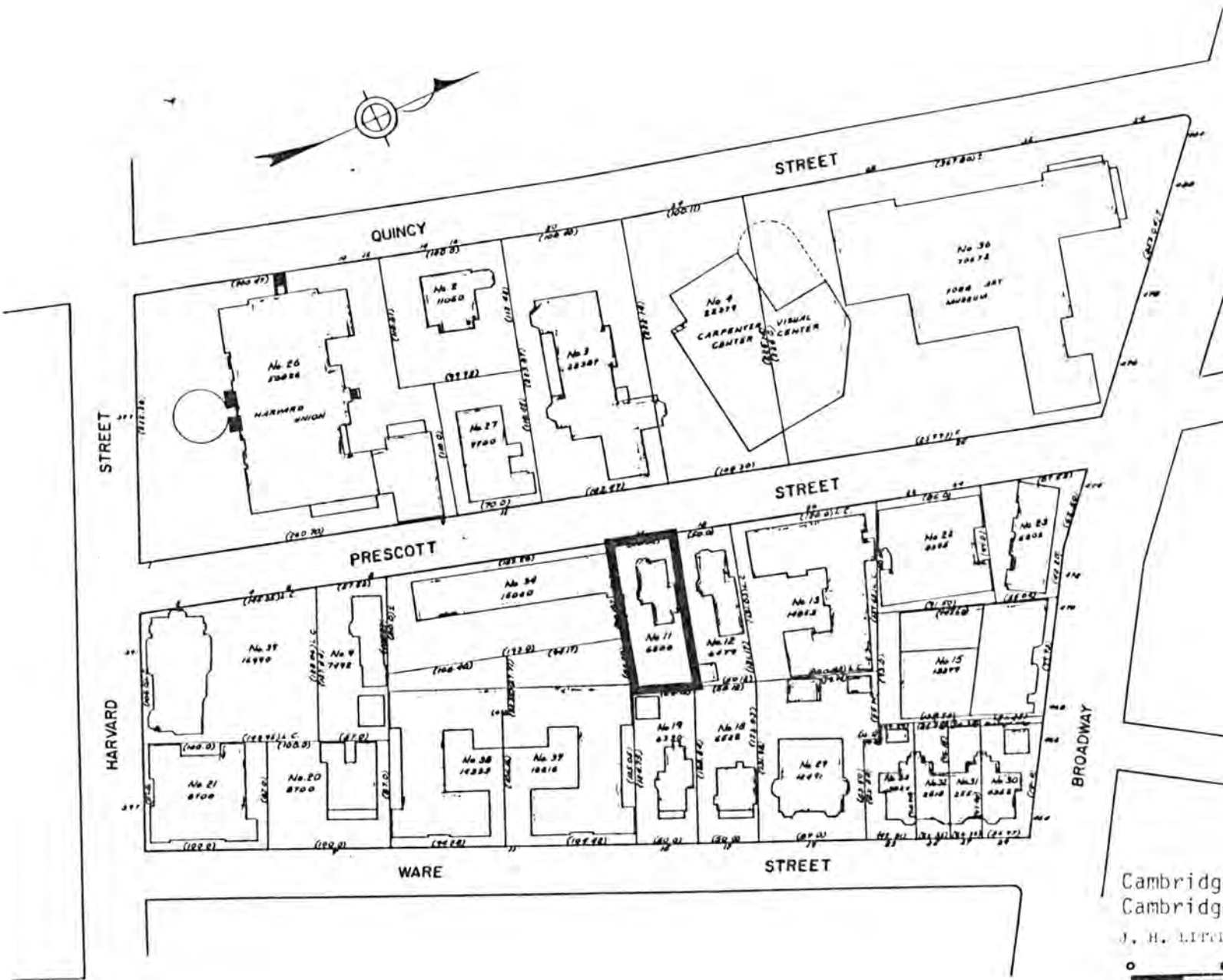
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Littlefield-Roberts House
16 Prescott Street

Cambridge MA, Ma 89-25



Cambridge, Mass.
 Cambridge MRA
 J. H. LITTLEFIELD HOUSE



Base: City of Cambridge
 Assessor's Plans

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275