Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) PH0505960

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 18 1977
DATE ENTERED MAR 30 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Harvard Lampoon Building

AND/OR COMMON: The Lampoon Castle

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 44 Bow Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Cambridge __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 8th

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 025 COUNTY: Middlesex CODE: 017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: The Trustees of the Harvard Lampoon Society, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER: 44 Bow Street

CITY, TOWN: Cambridge __ VICINITY OF

STATE: Massachusetts 02138

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER: 208 Cambridge Street

CITY, TOWN: Cambridge

STATE: Massachusetts 02141

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge, Report Four
Inventory of the Historic Assets of the Commonwealth

DATE: 1973
1975 __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY X LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Cambridge Historical Commission
Massachusetts Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN: Cambridge
~~Boston~~

STATE: 02138
Massachusetts 02108

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
_EXCELLENT	_DETERIORATED	_UNALTERED	X_ORIGINAL SITE
X_GOOD	_RUINS	X_ALTERED	_MOVED DATE_____
_FAIR	_UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harvard Lampoon Building is located at 44 Bow Street, on the southeastern perimeter of Harvard Square in Cambridge. The structure occupies a triangle bounded by Mt. Auburn Street to the south, Plympton Street to the east, and Bow Street to the north. The immediately surrounding area is commercial encircled by Harvard University buildings.

E.M. Wheelwright, who was then the Boston city architect, was commissioned to design the Lampoon Building in 1909. The triangular -shaped brick building is 2½ stories tall with an intersecting ridge roof. The structure is a parody of the architectural style of late 16th century Holland, designed in the wedge shape dictated by the odd block of land at the intersection of four streets. A domed tower approached by a flight of granite stairs emphasizes the western point of the wedge. The tower houses the formal entrance to the building and an interior spiral staircase. The north and south street elevations of the building each have a projecting eastern and western end bay which feature Gothic tracery windows and medieval stepped gables above. The Rennaissance-inspired, regularly fenestrated first floor contrasts with the three stepped gable dormers above on both elevations. One of the most engaging aspects of the structure is the organization of these design elements to produce a whimsical resemblance to an Egyptian sphinx. The rear (eastern) bay on the north and south elevations suggest the haunches of the animal; the fore (western) bays, the "shoulders", plus the two "arms" on each side of the entrance steps emphasize the amusing face-like appearance of the tower. Its high oculus windows, 15th c. Spanish wrought iron crane and lantern, and the rectangular window above the tower door were specifically intended to form an almost-human countenance.

The original "Ludovici" roofing tiles and "Bench" brick (used instead of traditional "Harvard" brick) were employed for their "antique effect" and to enhance surface quality. The use of these materials makes for variation in color, texture, and shape. Wrought iron ornamentation and a variety of tiles are set into the brick in a band around the building and over the gable and dormer windows, also to add textural diversity. Indiana limestone accents the windows and emphasizes the horizontal division between the two main floors. The entrance doors have painted designs imitating Dutch tradition: two diagonals separate triangles of the Lampoon's colors (purple and yellow), while a solid crimson circle stands for Harvard.

The original tile roof was replaced with copper and slate in 1950. The present copper covering ties the tower dome more successfully into the visual unity of the structure by relating it to the copper bell tower which stands at the intersection of the rear (east) roof lines. The tower's copper dome is capped by a filiaree copper finial terminating in the representation of an Ibis, a symbol of the Lampoon. There is a small hip roofed dormer in the dome on line with the tower door. The entrance to the commercial space presently occupied by the Starr Book Shop is on the Plympton Street (east) elevation. The business entrance of the Lampoon is on Bow Street. An entrance into the basement from Mt. Auburn Street is blocked off and no longer used.

Form No. 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Most of the original interior has been well preserved. The most remarkable interior space is the banqueting room, known as the "Great Hall." Here the shape of the building has been used to arrange an elaborate visual joke. Looking from the narrow western end toward the brick arch which separates the chimneyed recess from the length of the hall, the eye is deceived by several ingenious tricks of perspective: the angles of the walls open and the angle of the roof slopes upward increasing the apparent size of the hall; the wooden arches of the cathedral ceiling and the four brass chandeliers likewise increase proportionally in size, exaggerating the length of the line. These arrangements create a sense of distance and grandeur that is out of proportion to the 60' length of the room.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	X LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1909 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wheelwright & Haven

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harvard Lampoon Building is significant for its architectural quality. The unique building was an attempt to embody the comical nature of the publication in the design of the structure. The success of the design is indicated by the fact that the building has become the trademark of the organization. The building is also significant for its designer, Edmund M. Wheelwright, an alumnus of Harvard, one of the founders of the Lampoon, and the Boston City Architect of the early 20th century. The Harvard Lampoon Building was Wheelwright's last completed design; he suffered a nervous breakdown in 1920 and died shortly thereafter.

The cornerstone of the Lampoon Building was laid June 24, 1909. Though 27 of 80 graduates of the Lampoon were architects in 1910, Wheelwright enjoyed special prominence as one of the original founders of the student humor magazine in 1876. A graduate of Harvard, M.I.T., and L'Ecole des Beaux Arts, Wheelwright was employed by McKim, Mead and White in New York before being hired as Boston City Architect in 1891. In this capacity he was responsible for the design of over 50 municipal buildings during his tenure in office. Other of his extant structures in Boston include the Larz Anderson and Longfellow Bridges, the Massachusetts Historical Society Headquarters, and Horticultural Hall.

The Harvard Lampoon is one of the first college humor magazines in America. Through its alumni, it has spawned such nationally-known publications as the original Life magazine and the National Lampoon. Other prominent members of the Lampoon include C.A. Coolidge (of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge), Alexander W. Longfellow, Jr. (Cambridge City Hall architect), publisher William Randolph Hearst, philisopher George Santayana, former Cabinet officials Elliot Richardson and William Middendorf, and writers Owen Wister, John P. Marquand, Robert Benchley, George Plimpton, and John Updike.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Harvard Lampoon Building; Architectural Criticism", Architecture, Vol. 21, No. 4, April 15, 1910.

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

Wheelwright, E.M., and Burwell, C.B., "The Story of the Lampoon Building", The Harvard Lampoon Centennial Catalogue, 1876-1976, Cambridge, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	19	325 620	4692900
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Blaine Mallory and Joseph Orfant, National Register Editor
L. McKay Whatley, Jr., Harvard Lampoon Librarian

ORGANIZATION Massachusetts Historical Commission

DATE September 19, 1977

STREET & NUMBER 294 Washington Street

TELEPHONE 617-727-8470

CITY OR TOWN Boston

STATE Massachusetts 02108

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Elizabeth Reed Amadon

TITLE Executive Director, Mass. Historical Commission DATE 9/28/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE 3 30 78

ATTEST: Kathryne Cole DATE 3-16-78

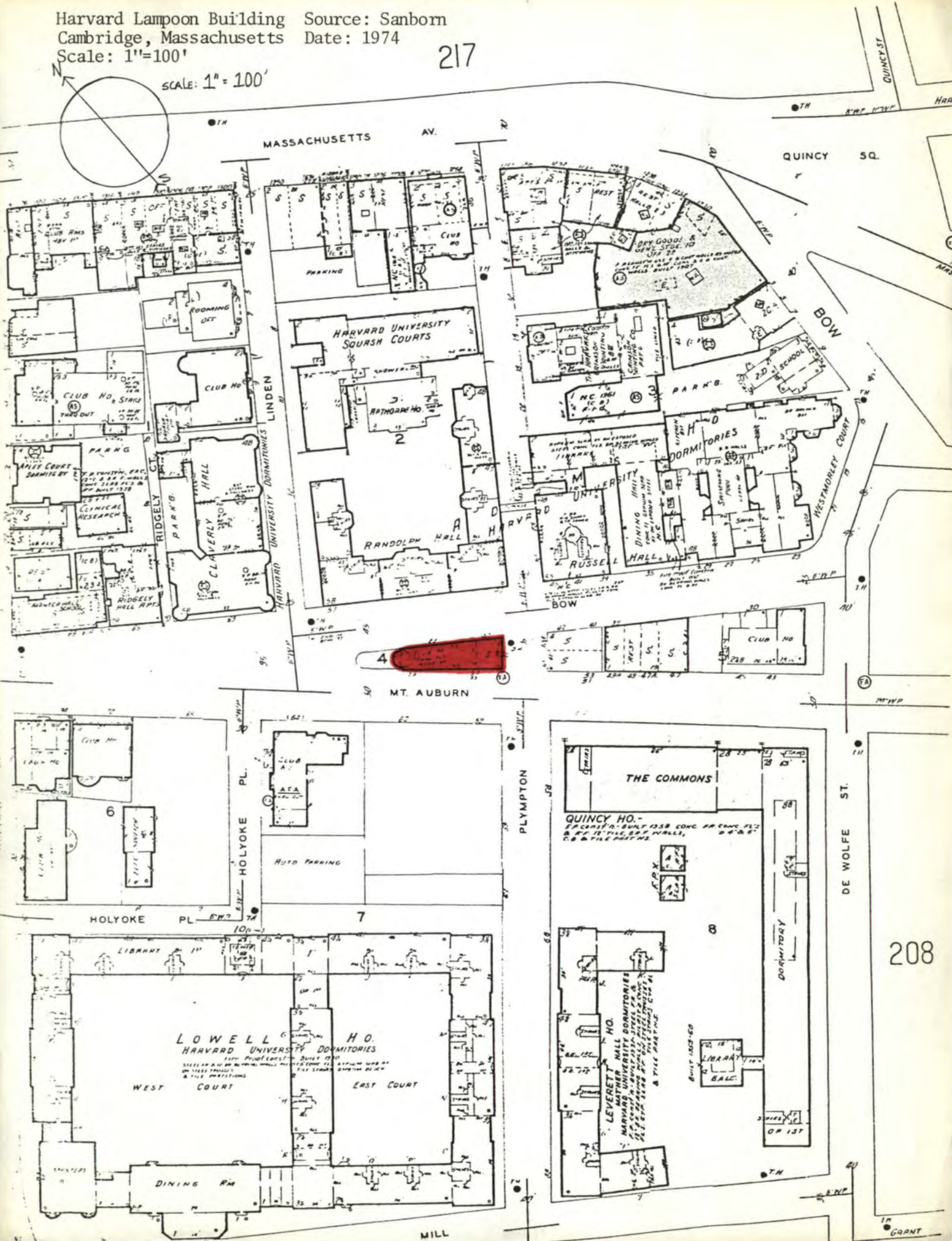
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

GPO 892-453

Harvard Lampoon Building
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Scale: 1"=100'

Source: Sanborn
Date: 1974

217



Property Harvard Lampoon Building

State MA. Working Number 10.18.77.1657 Middlesex

TECHNICAL

Photos 2
Maps 1, Sketch

CONTROL

OK pl 10.19.77

HISTORIAN

Well - presented. Accept 1-31-78 Sheffy

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept Graham 12.6.77

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept Lebovich 2/16/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

Approved 3/30/78

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered MAR 30 1978

Federal Register Entry 5.2.78 Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service WASO No. 7

Harvard Lampoon Building
Cambridge, Massachusetts
1977
L. McKay Whatley, Jr.
The Harvard Lampoon
44 Bow Street, Cambridge
#1 of 2
South elevation.

middlesex County

The Harvard Lampoon
View from South
(no. 1)


PIZZA

Harvard Lampoon Building
Cambridge, Massachusetts
1977
L. McKay Whatley, Jr.
The Harvard Lampoon
44 Bow Street, Cambridge
#2 of 2
Tower and north elevation.
Middlesex County

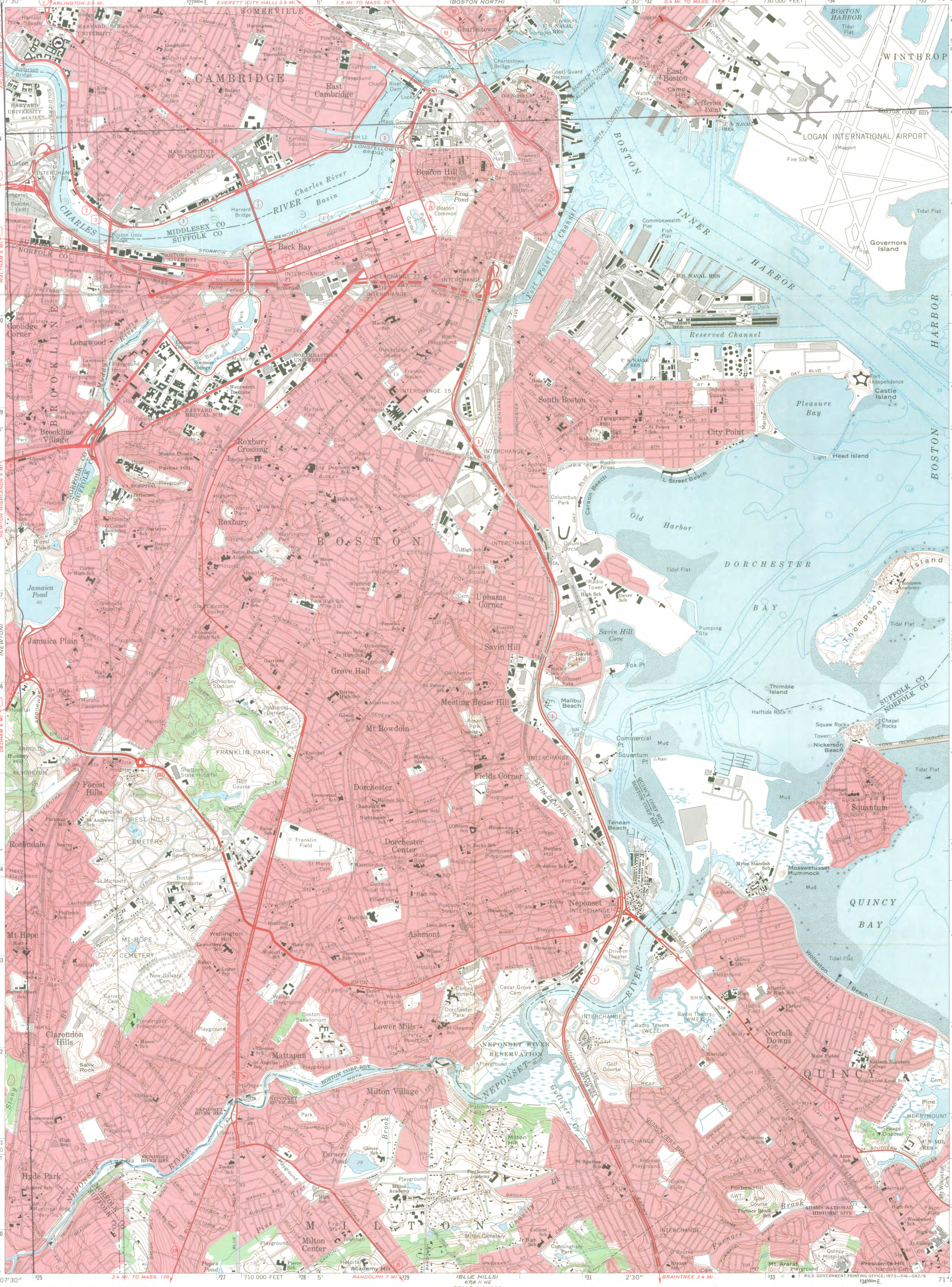
The Harvard Lampoon
View from NW
(no. 2)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Harvard Lampoon Building
Cambridge, Massachusetts
UTM Coordinates:
19/325 600/4692 990



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970

Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246 and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system, mainland zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue

Boundaries in tidewater areas from information supplied by Massachusetts Department of Public Works

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

☆U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1973—516—082/8

BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5

1970

AMS 6768 I SE—SERIES V814

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAR 30 1978

Name	Location
Harvard Lampoon Building	Cambridge Middlesex County
Butterfield-Whittemore House	Arlington Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Amadon
Executive Director, Massachusetts
Historical Commission
294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

880 Mott/js 4/10/78

PH0505960

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

(1) NAME as it appears on federal register: Harvard Lampoon Building

(2) OTHER NAMES: Lampoon Castle

(3) date of entry: MAR 30 1978

(4) county code: 17

(5) LOCATION street & number: 44 Bow St. | city / town: Cambridge | vicinity of | state: MA | county: Middlesex

(6) NPS REGION: NA

(7) OWNER ☒PRIVATE ☐STATE ☐MUNICIPAL ☐COUNTY ☐MULTIPLE ☐FEDERAL (agency name) _____

(8) ADMINISTRATOR: _____

(9) EXISTING SURVEYS ☐HABS ☐HAER ☐NHL (10) FUNDED? ☐YES ☐NO (11) CONGRESS. DISTRICT 8th (12) SOURCE of NOMINATION x ☐STATE ☐FEDERAL _____ if state who prepared form? _____ ☐LOCAL ☐PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

(13) WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐YES. NAME _____ ☐NO

(14) WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☐ YES. NAME _____ ☐NO

(15) ACREAGE

(16) CONDITION
☐excellent ☐good ☐fair
☐deteriorated ☐ruins ☐unexposed ☐unexcavated
☐altered ☐unaltered ☐reconstructed ☐excavated
☐original site ☐moved ☐unknown

(17) features:
INTERIOR: ☐SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐NOT INTACT-0 ☐UNKNOWN-4 ☐NOT APPLICABLE-7
EXTERIOR: ☐SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐NOT INTACT-0 ☐UNKNOWN-5 ☐NOT APPLICABLE-8
ENVIRONS: ☐SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐NOT INTACT-0 ☐UNKNOWN-6 ☐NOT APPLICABLE-9

(18) ACCESS ☐YES-Restricted ☐YES-Unrestricted ☐No Access ☐Unknown (19) ADAPTIVE USE ☐YES ☐NO (20) SAVED? ☐YES IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐yes ☐no

(21) AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
☐ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ART-5
☐COMMERCE-6 ☐COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐CONSERVATION-8 ☐ECONOMICS-9 ☐EDUCATION-10
☐ENGINEERING-11 ☐ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐EXPLORATION-12 ☐HEALTH-27 ☐INDUSTRY-13 ☐INVENTION-14
☐LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐LAW-16 ☐LITERATURE-17 ☐MILITARY-18 ☐MUSIC-19 ☐PHILOSOPHY-20
☐POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐RELIGION-22 ☐SCIENCE-23 ☐SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐TRANSPORTATION-25
☐RECREATION-28 ☐SETTLEMENT-29 ☐URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐OTHER (SPECIFY) _____ _____

(22) CLAIMS: explain
'first' ☐
'oldest' ☐
'only' ☐

(23) functions
WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:
CURRENTLY:

(24) dates of initial construction:
major alterations:
historic events:

(25) ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

(26) architectural style(s):

(27) architect:

(28) master builder:

(29) engineer:

(30) landscape architect / garden designer:

(31) interior decorator:

(32) artist:

(33) artisan:

(34) builder/contractor:

(35) NAMES give role & date
PERSONAL:
EVENTS:
INSTITUTIONAL:

(36) NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP

reviewers initials _____ date _____ IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED, NUMBER & PUT ON REVERSE