

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
30 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

APR 19 1986
MAY 19 1986

Cambridge

USGS Map #15

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

Photo number _____

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 12-16 Quincy Street

Historic Name Dana-Palmer House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1822

Source deed research

Style Federal/Greek Revival

Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings None

Major alterations (with dates) _____

Moved Yes Date 1947

Approx. acreage less than one acre

Setting On the lawn between the Harvard Union and the Harvard Faculty Club.

Recorded by T.Alduino

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date December 1985

UTM: 19/325860/ 4693150

USGS Quad: Boston South

(Staple additional sheets here)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Cambridge, Mass. Mid-Cambridge Cambridge MRA	
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Dana-Palmer House

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

Architectural Significance

The Dana-Palmer House is a Federal style, hipped roof structure with an added Greek Revival porch. Details include a continuous balustrade around the eaves, rounded bays under the porch and a fanlight over the front door. The Dana-Palmer House is significant under Criterion C for embodying the distinctive characteristics of the Federal style. It is one of two surviving structures on Quincy Street that recall the neighborhood's original residential quality.

Historical Significance

The Dana-Palmer House originally stood on the present site of Lamont Library, a little knoll that was part of the fortification of Washington's camp during the Revolution. Originally part of the Goffe estate, the land descended to the Dana family in the early eighteenth century. Distinguished members of the family who occupied the house included Richard Henry Dana, Sr. (1787-1879), one of the founders and editors of the North American Review, and his son, Richard Henry Dana, Jr. (1815-1882), author of Two Years Before the Mast. In 1835 the property was bought by Harvard College and was eventually incorporated into Harvard Yard.

Increased interest in astronomy due to the return of Halley's Comet in 1835 suggested to President Quincy that the Dana House could be used as an observatory by William C. Bond, later one of the originators of astronomical photography. The house served this function from 1839 to 1843, when the larger Sears Tower was built on Observatory Hill. Succeeding occupants included Professor of Greek Cornelius Felton; Rev. Frederic Huntington (1819-1904), first Plummer Professor of Christian Morals; Dr. Andrew Peabody (1811-1893), also Plummer Professor; Professor William James (1842-1910); and George Herbert Palmer (1842-1933), a professor of Philosophy who occupied the house for almost forty years.

During World War II, the house was the home of President James Bryant Conant while the President's House was turned into the Headquarters for Naval Training at Harvard. When the house was moved in 1947, the octagonal transit room used first for the observatory and later as a library was removed and the house restored to its original dimensions.

The Dana-Palmer House meets Criterion B for its numerous associations with people significant to the history and development of Harvard College.

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

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

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

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 25 yrs* 171. Cambridge Common Historic District
(Boundary Increase) **Substantive Review**
Entered in the National Register automatically listed
Keeper Patrick Andrews 1/26/81
Attest _____
- 172. Dana-Palmer House **Substantive Review**
Keeper Patrick Andrews 5/19/86
Attest Betsy L. Savage 5-14-81
- 173. Dunvegan, The **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest _____
- 174. Eliot Hall at Radcliffe College **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest _____
- 25 yrs* 175. Follen Street Historic District **Substantive Review**
Keeper Patrick Andrews 5/19/86
Attest Betsy L. Savage 5-14-81
- 176. Fogg Art Museum **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest _____
- 177. Gray Gardens East and West H. Dist. **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest _____
- 178. Harvard Union **Entered in the National Register automatically listed**
Keeper Patrick Andrews 1/26/81
Attest _____
- 179. Hapgood, Richard, House **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest _____
- 180. Jarvis, The **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest _____

810001682

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Dana--Palmer House (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Substantive Review

Working No. APR 4 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 5/1/86 — 5/19/86
Action: ACCEPT 5-19-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

architecturally significant

Recom./Criteria accept c
Reviewer Kurtik Anders
Discipline Historic
Date 5/19/86
_____ see continuation sheet

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

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 <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	Check one <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> altered	Check one <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
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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: _____



CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPH

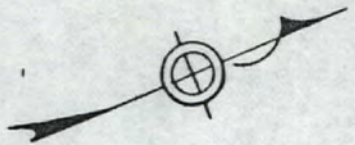
By CM SULLIVAN

No. 1263/5A

Date 3.12.86

Cambridge MRA, Ma

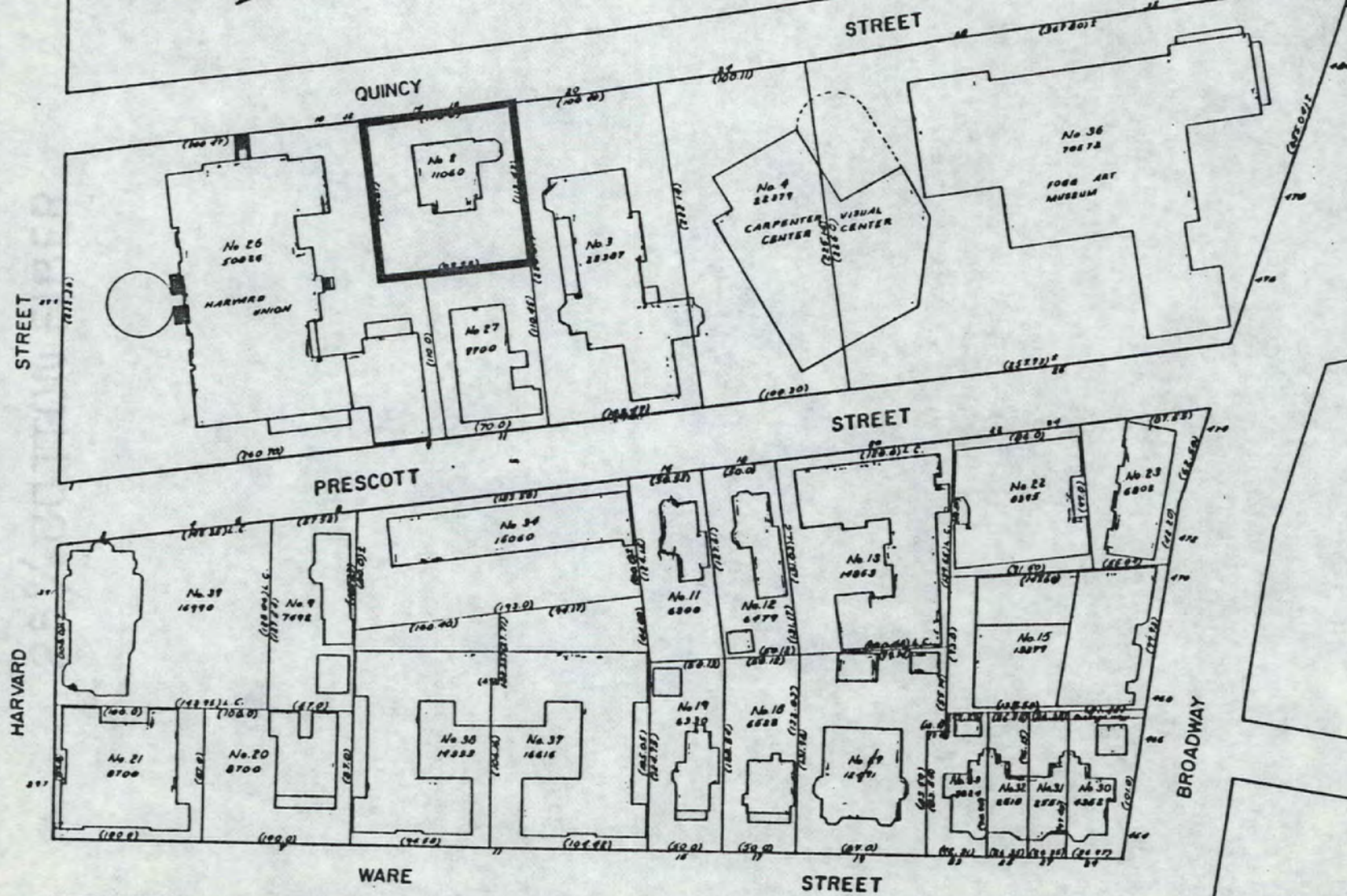
DANA - PALMER HOUSE, WEST & SOUTH FACADES



159

134

137



Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge, MRA

135

DANA PALMER HOUSE

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
 Scale 1" = 40' December 1976
 Dimensions from Deed Land Court
 or Layout Plans. All In Brackets ()
 Land Court Marked L.C. All Other
 Dimensions Are Measured

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275