

FORM A - AREA

APR 4 1986

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
	OLD CAM. I 15

USGS Map: MDA

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form

Photo number 2-6  
6-12A  
6-9A

Town Cambridge, Mass.  
Cambridge MRA

Name of area (if any) Memorial

Drive Apartments Historic District

General date or period 1914-1924

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

SEE ATTACHED MAP

USGS Quad: Newton

1,802 acres

UTM's A-19/325030/4693140  
B-19/325010/4693050  
C-19/324880/4693240  
D-19/324970/4693240  
E-19/324960/4693200

Recorded by Therese Alduino

Organization Cambridge Hist. Com.

Date 1985

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

The Memorial Drive apartment buildings turn their backs on the working-class neighborhood to the northeast and instead take advantage of the splendid views of the Charles River and the aging but cherished sycamore trees that line this part of Memorial Drive.

The first apartment building constructed was Strathcona-on-the-Charles (1914, W.L. Mowll). The plan of the many bayed Strathcona follows the curving frontage of the irregular site. Its details are somewhat Elizabethan in style. Two years later, the next two buildings, Radnor Hall and Hampstead Hall (Charles R. Greco) were constructed together. Published in American Architect and Building News, the plans for these buildings show an imaginative arrangement of six-to-eight room units, all with river or courtyard views. Georgian Revival in style, the first story and trim are cast stone. The last to be built, Barrington Court (1924, R.B. Whitten) has an unusually deep courtyard  
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific).

Continued

Before the construction of Memorial Drive (originally Charles River Road) in the late 1890's, the land along the river had little potential for development. About half owned by the Cambridge Gas Light Company and the rest by private owners, there were few buildings on the site. After the completion of the parkway, designed by Charles Eliot, it became prime property for a fashionable residential district.

The four luxury brick apartment buildings that make up the district are of the courtyard type. Ralph Adams Cram originated this style with Richmond Court on Beacon Street in Brookline (1898). Widely followed in Cambridge, especially by the firm of Newhall and Blevins (Wadsworth Chambers, 83 Brattle Street, 1908; Burton Halls, 10 Dana Street, 1909) the first riverfront example was Riverbank Court, 1900, H.B. Ball, located at the other end of Memorial Drive, near the Harvard Bridge. Because of their many similarities-courtyards, brick material, stone ornamental detail, and uniform height-983-993 Memorial Drive seem at first glance to be a single complex. They were actually designed over a period of ten years by three architects.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge Mass. Cambridge MRA	Form No: O.C. I 15
Property Name: Memorial Drive Apartments	

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

Architectural Significance con't.

and a more symmetrical layout.

Taken together, 983-993 Memorial Drive, with their varied courtyards, form the most impressive concentration of apartment buildings in Cambridge and are significant under Criterion C.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:	Form No:
Cambridge Mass. Cambridge MRA	O.C. I 15
Property Name: Memorial Dr. Apts. N.R.D.	

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

Criteria For Evaluation

The Memorial Drive Apartments National Register District is Cambridge's most distinguished grouping of twentieth century luxury apartment houses. The district retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling and meets Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places. The Memorial Drive National Register District was found to be significant under the theme of architecture: early twentieth century luxury apartment houses, as proposed by Dr. Cynthia Zaitzevsky to the Review Committee for the Study of Architecture of Harvard University and its Environs in Cambridge.

The Memorial Drive Apartments National Register District consists of four brick Neo-Georgian or Neo-Tudor apartment buildings of the courtyard type. Fronting the Charles River, the apartment buildings take full advantage of the views of this landscape. Although designed by three architects over a period of ten years, the buildings have the appearance of a single complex.

The boundaries of the Memorial Drive Apartments National Register District were drawn to include the four luxury apartment buildings, 983-993 Memorial Drive. The area is distinct from the working-class neighborhood to the northeast, on which the apartment buildings all turn their backs. The Charles River Basin National Register District forms a natural/man-made boundary to the southwest. The eastern boundary is marked by the monastery of the Society of St. John the Evangelist

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Cambridge Mass.  
Cambridge MA

O.C.  
I 15

Property Name: Memorial Drive  
Apartments N.R.D.

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

Memorial Drive Apartments National Register District Cambridge Mass., Cambridge MRA

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE	C/NC
166,61	Radnor Hall	983-984 Memorial Dr.	1916	NG	C
166,70	Hampstead Hall	985-986 Memorial Dr.	1916	NG	C
166,72	Barrington Court	987-989 Memorial Dr.	1924	NG	C
166,71	Strathcona-on-the Charles	992-993 Memorial Dr.	1914	NT	C

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\* NG=Neo-Georgian; NT=Neo-Tudor.

\*\* C=Contributing; NC= Non-Contributing.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Memorial Drive Apartments Historic District  
(Cambridge MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MASSACHUSETTS

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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
- 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

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**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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Memorial Drive Apartments  
N.R.D.

*Cambridge MRA, MA*

Barrington Court 6-12A



Memorial Drive Apartments  
N.R.D.

*Cambridge MRA, MA*

Hampstead Hall

6-9A



Memorial Drive Apartments  
N.R.D.

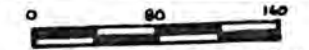
*Cambridge MA, Ma*

Strathcona

2-6

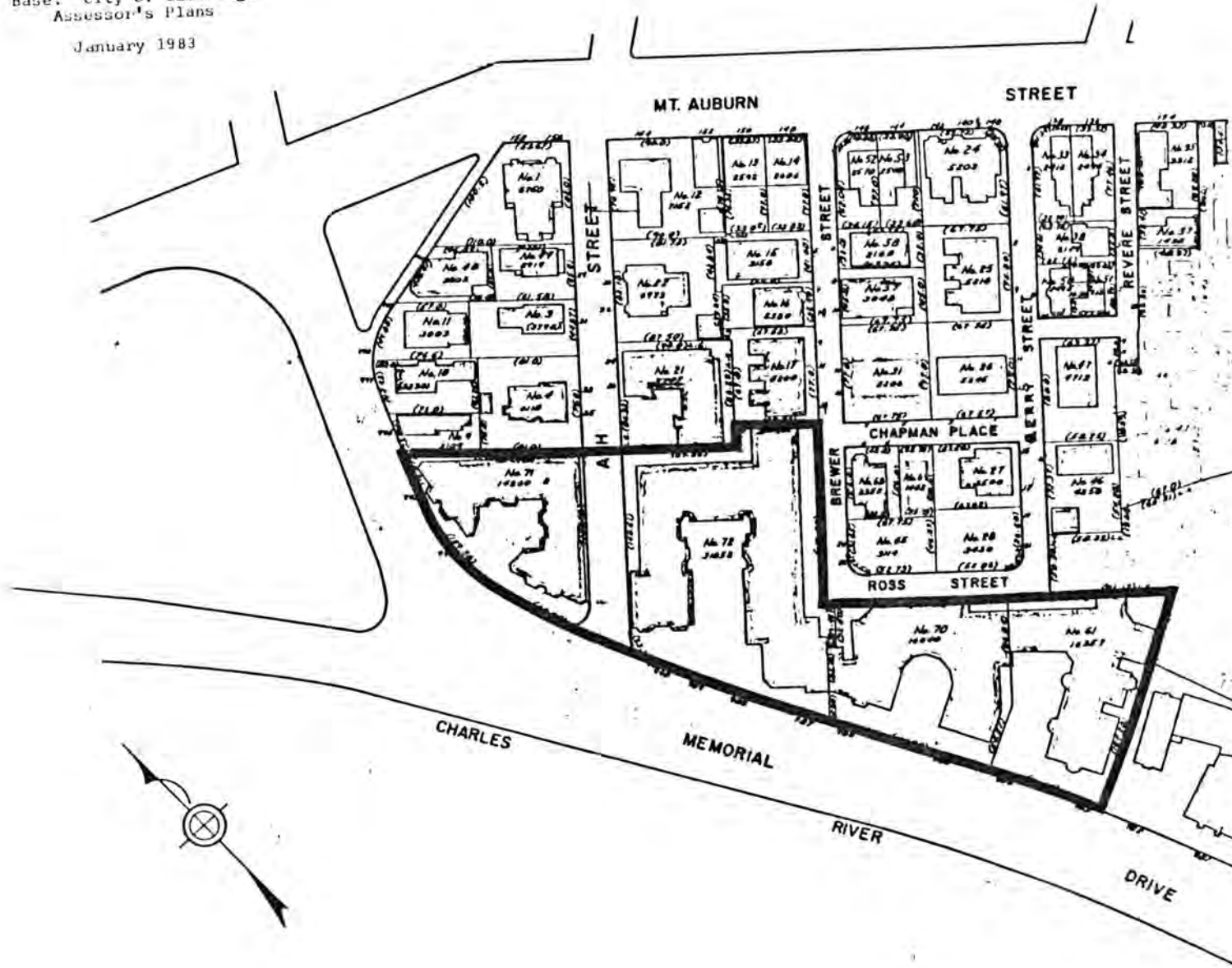
Cambridge, Mass.  
Cambridge MRA

MEMORIAL DRIVE APARTMENTS N.R.D.



Base: City of Cambridge  
Assessor's Plans

January 1983



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275

Memorial Drive  
Apts.  
52

Mrs. Evelyn S. Wyman  
987 Memorial Drive  
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

RECEIVED

February 4, 1986

FEB -7 1986

MASS. HIST. COMM.

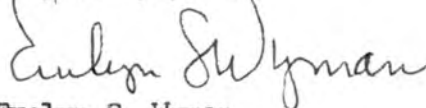
Valarie A. Talmage  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
80 Boylston Street  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Ms. Talmage:

This is to inform you that the Board of Managers of Barrington Court Condominium at 987, 988, 989 Memorial Drive voted at its January 21, 1986 meeting to approve the inclusion of the building for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for notifying me of the meeting on January 16.

Very truly yours,



Evelyn S. Wyman  
President  
Board of Managers