

APR 4 1986

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
Old Cam	II B 14B

USGS Map #3

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

Photo number 58-11

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 T. Alduino
Organization Cambridge Historical Com.
Date 1985

UTM 19/325120/4694208

USGS Quad: Boston North (Staple additional sheets here)

Town Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge MRAAddress 42-44 Avon StreetHistoric Name E.H. Brabrook HouseUse: Present residentialOriginal residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1849Source deed and tax recordsStyle Greek Revival/Bracketed ItalianateArchitect unknownExterior wall fabric woodOutbuildings stableMajor alterations (with dates) noneMoved no Date NAApprox. acreage .3213 acres

Setting Avon Street is a pleasant mix of single, double and apartment houses ranging in style from the Bracketed Italianate to the Colonial Revival.

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

The Brabrook House, a double house set flush to the street, stands on the dividing line between the Greek Revival and Bracketed Italianate styles. Greek Revival details include the center entrances with side-lights and corner pilaster strips. Fenestration is 6/6. Italianate features include paired brackets supporting a widely projecting cornice, full-front porch with square posts, and open brackets, characteristic of the 1850's in Cambridge, and window hoods. The north gable contains a

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

Continued

Avon Street was originally part of the Lower Common. In 1724, this sixty-three acre area was divided into about twenty parcels. Until the middle of the nineteenth century, when owners began subdividing their holdings independently, the area remained primarily pastures, orchards and gardens. Avon Street, laid out in 1845, was one of the earliest streets platted. 42-44 Avon Street was built by Ezra H. Brabrook, a furniture dealer. Today the area is a mixture of single, double and apartment houses ranging in style from the Italianate to the Colonial Revival.

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 14B

Property Name: Brabrook House

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

Architectural Significance con't.

a round headed window and a truncated pediment. While there are other transitional Greek Revival/Bracketed Italianate houses in Old Cambridge, such as 154 Mt. Auburn Street (1852), the Brabrook House is the earliest and most elaborate example surviving in Old Cambridge. As such it is significant under Criterion C.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Cambridge MRA
Cambridge Mass.

OC
II B 14B

Property Name: 42-44 Avon St.

Brabrook, E.H., Hox

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
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- Cambridge Historical Society, Proceedings (1906-Present), Cambridge, MA.
- D.A.R., Winthrop Chapter, An Historical Guide to Cambridge (1907),
Cambridge, MA.
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(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
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1984), Cambridge, MA.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 17 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

161. Mead, Alpheus, House

Substantive Review ✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

162. Snow, Daniel, House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

determined eligible

163. Wyeth, John, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

164. HOMER-LOVELL House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Wm. Duhon 12/22/83

Attest

165. Reversible Collar
Company Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

David L. Dwyer 9.27.85

Attest

166. Ash Street Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Substantive Review

Keeper

Attest

TS

167. Berkeley Street Historic District (Boundary
Increase)Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 5.19.86

Attest

168. Bertram Hall at Radcliffe College

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 5.19.86

Attest

169. Bennink-Douglas Cottages

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 5.19.86

Attest

170. Brabrook, E. H., House

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Shelton Byers 5.19.86

Attest

86001276

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Brabrook, E. H., House (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

APR 4 1986

Working No. _____
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

Entered in the
National Register

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	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	☐ 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: _____



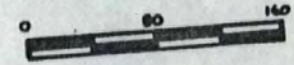
Cambridge MRA, Ma

E.H. Brabrook House

42-44 Avon Street 58-11

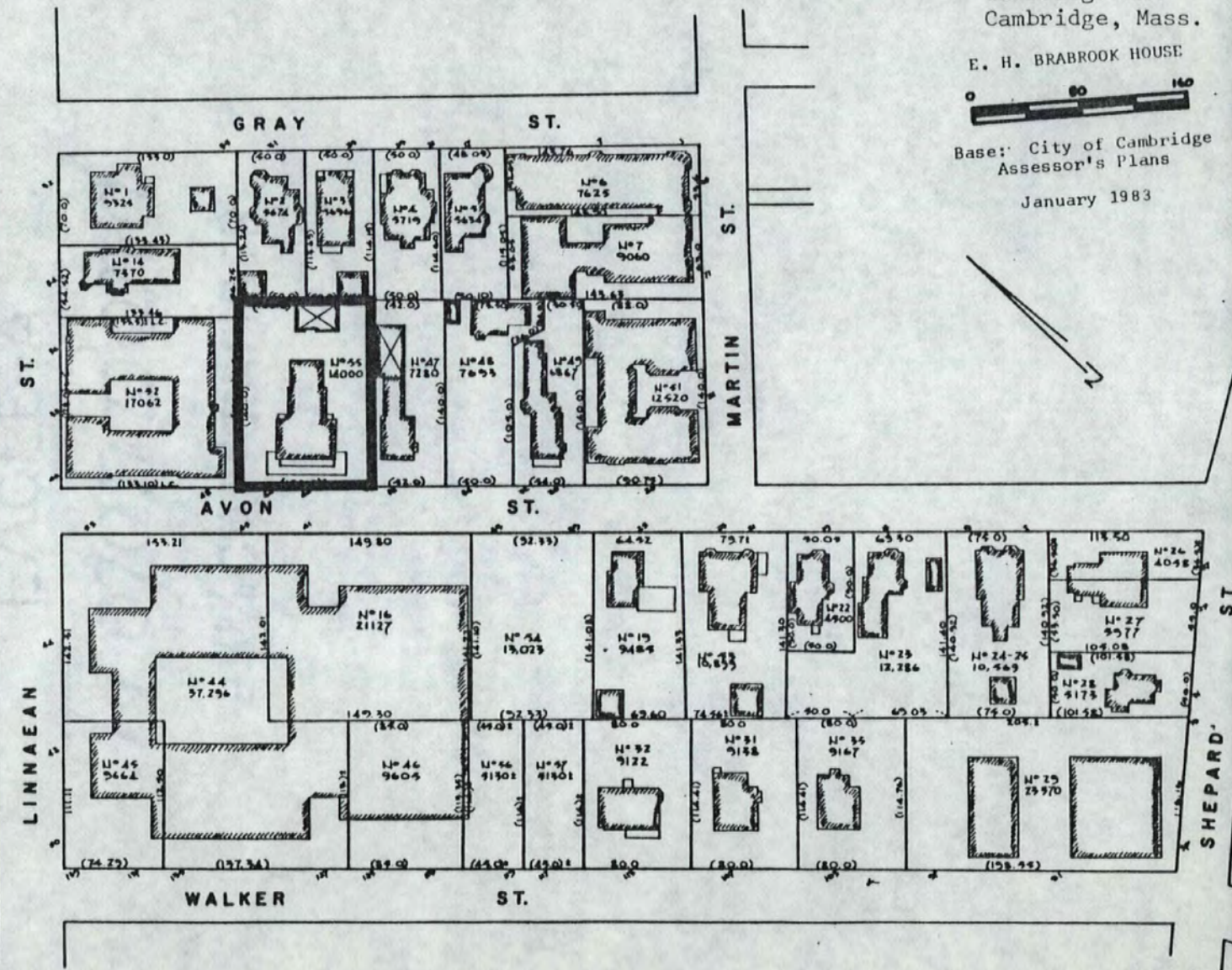
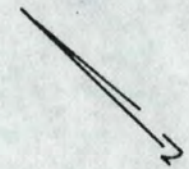
Cambridge MRA
Cambridge, Mass.

E. H. BRABROOK HOUSE



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