

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received FEB 12 1986

date entered MAR 13 1986

1. Name

historic Harriswood Crescent

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number Harold Street, 60-88 inclusive N/A not for publication

city, town Boston (Roxbury) n/a vicinity of

state Massachusetts code 025 county Suffolk code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☒ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	☐ n/a in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name multiple, see continuation sheet

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Suffolk County Registry of Deeds

street & number Pemberton Square

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Assets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1981 form # 37, Roxbury ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Massachusetts Historical Commission

city, town Boston state Massachusetts

7. Description

Harriswood Crescent, Boston (Roxbury) Massachusetts

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

Harriswood Crescent is a row of fifteen attached masonry houses located on Harold Street between Townsend and Munroe Streets in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. They were built as single family residences and are so used today. The group was designed in the Old English style of the English Domestic Revival, also referred to as Queen Anne Revival and built in 1890. Horatio Harris Park, directly opposite the Crescent, provides a landscaped setting for the houses which occupy small individual plots of land. This area of Roxbury is generally characterized by two- and three-family wood frame detached suburban residences in Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles, built from around 1890 to 1910.

Each house consists of three stories above a raised stone foundation. Flights of stone and cement steps lead up from the sidewalk to the front entrances. The principal facades are designed to give the illusion of several independent suburban villas rather than a row of identical units. Entrances to individual units are for the most part paired and recessed behind porches or deep arches. A series of set-backs and projections break up the facade, while gables, crenellated bay windows, and prominent chimneys provide a picturesque variety and irregularity to the roof-line. Materials that contrast in color and texture, such as brick, stucco, and rough-hewn stone are used to contribute further to the variety that is characteristic of this style.

The overall composition of the row is symmetrical, although it appears irregular. The end units (60 and 88 Harold St.) are of brick with a crenellated bay window at the corner and an enclosed porch wrapping around the side. The next two units in the row (62 and 86 Harold St.) have a doubled-gabled facade that is brick on the first floor and half-timbered in cream-colored stucco on the upper portion. The next two units (64 and 84 Harold St.) are set back slightly, and have a single gable with vertical half-timbering painted white against grey-brown stucco. This facade is connected to the double-gable facade by a recessed section of brick, containing two entrances, a second-floor balcony and an oval window. Another brick facade fronts the sixth and seventh units (70, 72, 76, and 78 Harold St.) from the corner. These two units are set back further than their immediate neighbors, though a balcony on one and a bay window on the other project slightly. The central unit of the row (74 Harold St.) is a single-gabled half-timbered facade using the same cream-colored stucco and dark wood as the double-gabled units. The overall streetscape reads as seven distinct houses of substantial size, instead of the 15 actual units.

The houses overlook Horatio Harris Park, a rectangular plot of approximately 110,000 square feet. A massive outcropping of rock dominates the southeast corner of the park. These rocks combine with several large old trees and winding paths to create the naturalistic landscaping of the park. A low wall of Roxbury puddingstone encloses the space. No major alterations have been made to the houses and they are in good condition. They retain their original interior plans and their fine walnut woodwork is intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Harriswood Crescent
Boston (Roxbury), Massachusetts Item number 2,4

Page 1

HARRISWOOD CRESCENT DISTRICT DATA SHEET

<u>Address</u>	<u>Parcel#</u>	<u>Owner Name</u>
	(all Ward 12)	
60 Harold St./90 Munroe	3460	James E. Jackson
62 Harold Street	3459	Richard L. Taylor, Et al
64 Harold Street	3458	Larry J. Johnson, et al
66 Harold Street	3457	Mary T. Mitchell, Et al
68 Harold Street	3456	Phyllis A. Mayo
70 Harold Street	3455	John J. Miller
72 Harold Street	3454	Thomas R. Ross, et al
74 Harold Street	3453	John E. Miller
76 Harold Street	3452	Richard L. Arrington, Et al
78 Harold Street	3451	Melvin B. Miller
80 Harold Street	3450	William B. Markham, et al
82 Harold Street	3449	John G. Bynoe, Et al
84 Harold Street	3448	Michael L. Long
86 Harold Street	3447	Dennis Neighbors, Et al
88 Harold/124 Townsend	3446	Frederick C. Saunders, Jr. 88 Harold Street

Note: all properties are owner-occupied;
mailing addresses are in Roxbury, MA 02119

8. Significance

Harriswood Crescent, Boston (Roxbury), Massachusetts

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	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1890

Builder/Architect J. Williams Beal

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Harriswood Crescent, built in 1890, is a well-preserved, unusual example of a Queen Anne style suburban Terrace, significant as a work by J. Williams Beal, an architect of statewide importance. It is evidence of the development of Roxbury as a suburban community, and as such retains its original suburban characteristics. The residential grouping retains integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and as such meets criteria A and C of the National Register on the local level.

Harriswood Crescent was built in 1890 at the height of Roxbury's development as a streetcar suburb. The area of Roxbury in which the Crescent is located, known at the time as Boston Highlands due to its rocky terrain and steep grades, was an extremely desirable residential location. Its popularity and its topography made plots small and land values high. The steep grades and the creation of Franklin Park to the south prevented any major thoroughfares from being cut through the area, and thus kept it relatively isolated and free of commercial development. The houses of Harriswood Crescent were built on speculation by the Estate of Horatio Harris, who died in 1876 and whose home stood south of the corner of Townsend and Walnut Streets. Harris was in business as Horatio Harris and Co., auctioneers and commission merchants (18 India, Boston). The extensive Harris estate in 1874 included all of the land now occupied by the Crescent, with a total area of 1,117,813 square feet. The houses were designed by J. Williams Beal, and built by the firm of Holmes Brothers at a cost of \$8,000 each. They were sold upon completion at prices from \$12,000 and up. Although the development was called Harriswood Crescent, it is not actually crescent-shaped. The name was probably chosen for its historical associations with Boston's Tontine Crescent and the great Georgian crescents of London and Bath.

Horatio Harris Park, across Harold St. from the Crescent, originally called Fountain Square, was donated to the town of Roxbury and dedicated in 1852. It was possibly the gift of the Monroe family, whose farm occupied 22 acres between Townsend and Munroe Streets (Francis Drake, The Town of Roxbury, p.227). The park was redesigned in 1907 by Pray, Hubbard and White, and again in 1912–13 by the Olmsted Brothers, at which time it was renamed Horatio Harris Park. Although no original plans are known to exist, it is unlikely that the design of the park has changed dramatically since much of the design is determined by the rocks and older trees. The park provided the developers of Harriswood Crescent with a cost-free landscape setting. Because of the park's presence, the houses could be built on small lots in the manner of English terrace housing, and still appeal to people willing and able to pay a price comparable to that of a free-standing residence. The suburban atmosphere was reinforced by the style of the houses, which was associated with the English countryside.

Continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

Harriswood Crescent

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Boston South

Quadrangle scale 1"=25,000'

UTM References

A 19 327250 4687000
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Nominated properties conform to Assessor's Parcel Numbers 3446, 3447, 3448, 3449, 3450, 3451, 3452, 3453, 3454, 3455, 3456, 3457, 3458, 3459, 3460. (Ward 12).
Please see attached assessors map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Zimmerman, Director of Preservation Planning, Massachusetts Historical Comm.
with Katherine Boonin, Edward Tl Johnson, Michael Long,
Boston Landmarks Commission

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date December, 1985

street & number 80 Boylston Street telephone (617) 727-8470

city or town Boston state 02116

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state x local

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 Valerie Ann Talmage

Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/3/86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

James Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register date 3-13-86

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet Harriswood Crescent Boston (Roxbury) Massachusetts Item number 8 Page 1

Harriswood Crescent is one of the earliest suburban terraces in the Boston area, and the only one in Roxbury. Other examples can be found in Brookline, such as the Beaconsfield Terraces, designed by Fehmer and Page in the late 1880's; Kilsyth Terrace, designed by Beal for the National Home Association in 1892, and a group of attached houses on Corey Road designed in 1896 in the shingle style. None of these terraces (including that designed by Beal) display the variety and picturesque quality of Harriswood Crescent, nor do they give the impression of larger individual houses. This quality is not found in the English prototypes of terrace housing, which were seldom built in the Queen Anne revival style.

Harriswood Crescent is an unusual Boston example of row housing designed to look not like a series of repetitive units, nor like a single unified block, but rather like a group of varied houses, similar to the other free-standing houses in the area, and meant to appeal to a class of people who might not otherwise have lived in row houses.

The architect of Harriswood Crescent, J. Williams Beal, was born in 1855 and studied architecture at M.I.T. After receiving his degree, he went to New York, where he worked in the offices of Richard Morris Hunt and McKim, Mead and White. He spent some time travelling and studying in Europe, and returned to Boston in 1888, when he formed a partnership with his two sons. Harriswood Crescent, begun in 1889, was one of his earliest commissions, dating from the same approximate time as his work on All Souls Unitarian Church, also in Roxbury, and also in an English vernacular style. Beal went on to design a number of single-family houses in Brookline, Roxbury and Dorchester, as well as Kilsyth Terrace and the Huntington Avenue Theater. In later years he designed public buildings in Plymouth, Brockton, and throughout Massachusetts. At the time of his death in 1919 he was described by his obituaries as having a state-wide reputation as a prominent architect.

Beal was influenced in his early designs by Richard Morris Hunt, Charles McKim and Stanford White, all of whom had experimented with English vernacular styles. Beal may also have seen some of the British sources for their designs firsthand in the course of his travels, although it is not known if he actually visited England. The English Domestic or Queen Anne Revival not only popularized elements of Elizabethan and Queen Anne vernacular architecture, but put forth the idea of a return to a simpler, more wholesome life in rural surroundings. Harriswood Crescent shows evidence of both aspects of the Revival; in its half-timbering and brick crenellations and in its location in a semi-rural or suburban setting. Variety, spaciousness, and privacy, all hallmarks of the Domestic Revival which would seem incompatible with row housing are incorporated into Harriswood Crescent by Beal through ingenious planning, a judicious use of architectural details, and the fortunate circumstance of the setting. Later works by Beal also show the influence of English sources, but none a more imaginative use of them than found in this project. These houses are among the finest and most highly-developed examples of this style to be found in the Boston area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Harriswood Crescent
Continuation sheet Boston (Roxbury) Massachusetts Item number 9

Page 1

American Architect.

American Architect and Building News.

Boston Landmarks Commission. Building Information Form No. 37; Harold St.

Building Inspector Reports, City of Boston. Vol. 36, p. 134.

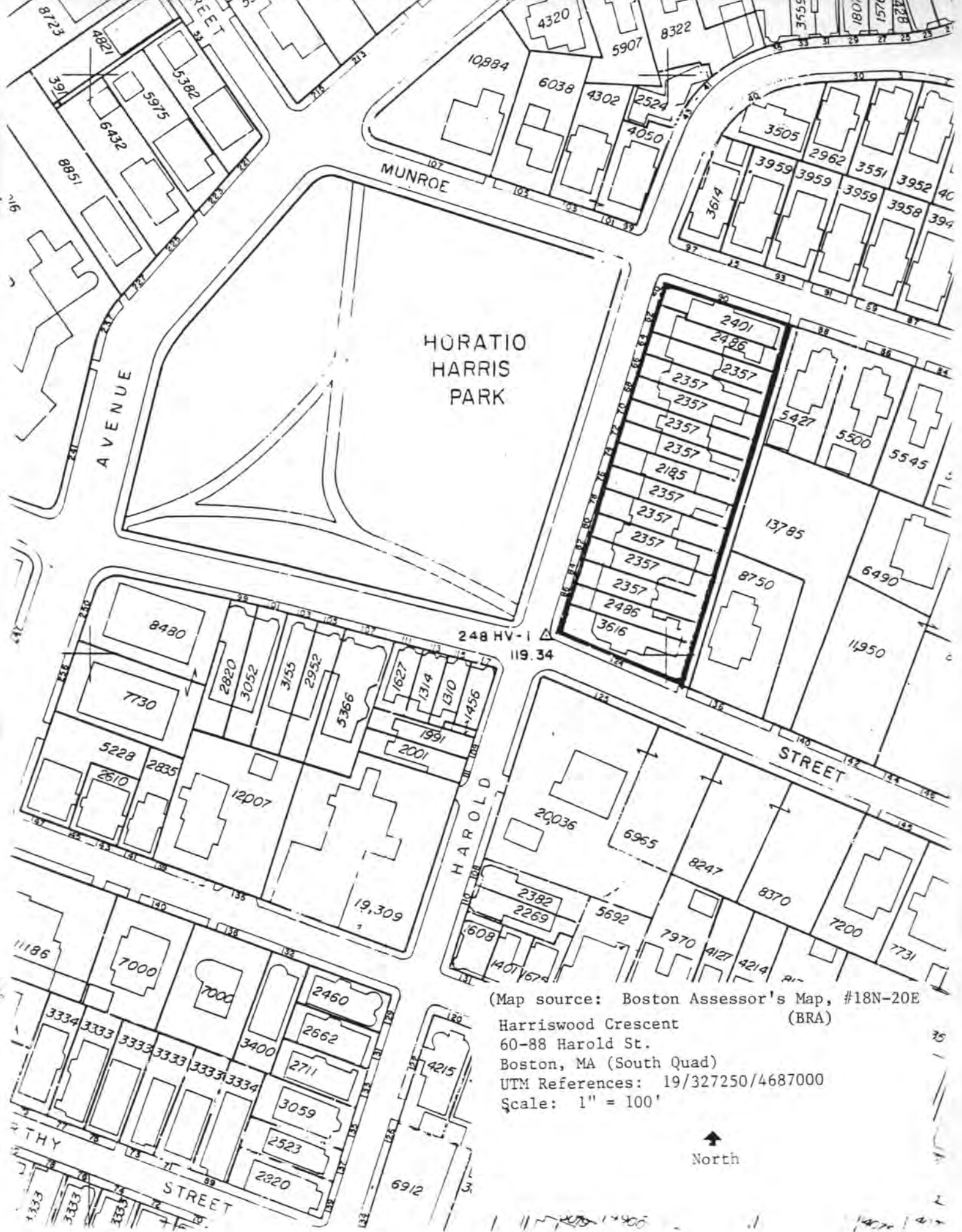
Building Permits, City of Boston.

Drake, Francis. The Town of Roxbury. Published by the author at 131 Warren St., Boston, October, 1878.

Tucci, Douglas Shand. Built in Boston: City and Suburb 1800-1950. Boston: New York Graphic Society. 1978.

Warner, Sam Bass. Streetcar Suburbs: The Process of Growth in Boston 1870-1900. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1962.

Withey, Henry F. A Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls. 1970 (facsimile edition).



(Map source: Boston Assessor's Map, #18N-20E (BRA))

Harriswood Crescent

60-88 Harold St.

Boston, MA (South Quad)

UTM References: 19/327250/4687000

Scale: 1" = 100'



ref. # 86000375

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Harriswood Crescent
Suffolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. FEB 12 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 3/13/86 - 3/29/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 3-13-86
☐ 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		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

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: _____



Harriswood Crescent
60-88 Harold St.
Roxbury (Boston), Massachusetts

Carol Kennedy, 1985
Negative on file at Boston Landmarks Commission

Photograph number 1 of 4
Oblique view of Harold St. facades;
(88 Harold St. on right);
camera facing northeast



Harriswood Crescent
60-88 Harold St.
Roxbury (Boston), Massachusetts

Carol Kennedy, 1985
Negative on file at Boston Landmarks Commission

Photograph number 2 of 4
Oblique view; (88 Harold St. on right);
Camera facing northeast from intersection of Harold and Townsend Streets



Harriswood Crescent
60-88 Harold St.
Roxbury (Boston), Massachusetts

Carol Kennedy, 1985
Negative on file at Boston Landmarks
Commission

Photograph number 3 of 4
Oblique view; (66-68 Harold St. on left);
Camera facing south



Harriswood Crescent
60-88 Harold St.
Roxbury (Boston), Massachusetts

Carol Kennedy, 1985
Negative on file at Boston Landmarks
Commission

Photograph number 4 of 4
Oblique view of Harold St. facades;
Townsend St. intersection at far right;
camera facing south

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BOSTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MASSACHUSETTS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

HARRISWOOD CRESCENT

60-88 Harold St.
Boston (Roxbury), Massachusetts

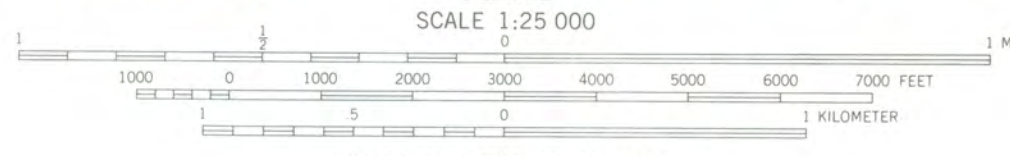
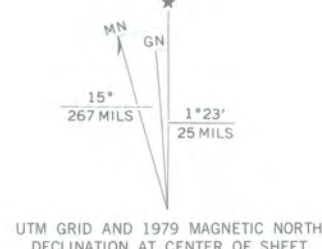
UTM Reference: 19J327250/4687000

Scale: 1" = 25,000'



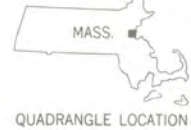
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Massachusetts Geodetic Survey
Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Revised from
aerial photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1970
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 246
and 248 (1971). This information is not intended for navigational
purposes

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts coordinate system,
mainland zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid,
zone 19
Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied
by Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE ON MEAN HIGH WATER
THE RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



BOSTON SOUTH, MASS.
N4215—W7100/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1979
AMS 6768 1SE—SERIES V814



P284 880 608

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of the Secretary of State
Michael Joseph Connolly, Secretary

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Valerie A. Talmage
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

Rec'd
FEB 12 1986

February 4, 1986

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of Interior, National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed you will find the following nomination forms:

Boston (Roxbury), HARRISWOOD CRESCENT, 60-88 Harold Street (inclusive),
15 properties.

Boston (Charlestown), MONUMENT SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT, 1-50 Monument
Square, 47 properties, HPCA #0641-85-MA-85-0651, denied, appeal pending.

Foxboro, CARY, OTIS HOUSE, 242 South Street.

Marblehead, STORY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 140 Elm Street, HPCA pending
#0621-84-MA-84-0624.

All have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been
signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified
of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the
meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments re-
ceived to date are attached to the nomination forms.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Zimmerman

Sarah J. Zimmerman
Director, Preservation Planning
Massachusetts Historical Commission

SJZ/dr

Enclosures