

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
MID CAMB.	MC II B 33



Cambridge

ess 104 Irving Street

ee.e. cummings house

sent use residential

sent owner Eleanor H. Wagner

scription:

re 1893

Source deed records

le primarily Colonial Revival

chitect Walker & Kimball

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features has one-story balu-
strated entry portico with urns at
posts; two chimneys.

Altered No Date ----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre

Approximate frontage 130'

Approximate distance of building from street
30'

6. Recorded by A. Downing

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1966

UTM-BOSTON NORTH
19/326190/4693280

4. Map. Draw sketch of building 1097-33
in relation to nearest cross streets and
other buildings. Indicate north.



7. Original owner (if known) Prof. and Mrs. Edward E. Cummings

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<u> </u>	Conservation	<u> </u>	Recreation	<u> </u>
Agricultural	<u> </u>	Education	<u>X</u>	Religion	<u> </u>
Architectural	<u>XX</u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u>X</u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> </u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Number 104 Irving Street was the childhood home of poet e.e. cummings. The house was commissioned by his father, Prof. Edward Cummings, an educator at Harvard as well as a pastor.

The building is Colonial Revival in style, and features one-over-one windows, dentil cornice with a broad frieze, and three pedimented dormers with paired windows. The porch has tuscan columns.

The house is located a short distance away from the William James House.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

NOV 14 1994

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: (e.e. cummings) house
(Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)
 State, County: MA- Middlesex
 Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-P0-2862
 Fed. Reg. Date: _____
 Date Due: 4/17/82
 Action: ☒ ACCEPT
☒ RETURN 4/13/82
☐ REJECT

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

photos 1
 maps _____

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

None of the areas intiated as significant have
 been discussed nor justified. If house is of primary
 significance ^{associations with} p.e.e. cummings, please discuss the length of
 time he lived in the house. Is this the
 only or best surviving structure associated
 with him, etc. etc.

Recom./Criteria Return
 Reviewer Braham
 Discipline Arch. Hist.
 Date 4.6.82
☐ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ 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

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT 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 Braham Date 5/4/82 Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

Form no.

MID CAMB.

MC
II B 33

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")

Staple to left side of form

Photo number 1097-33

1. Town Cambridge

Address 104 Irving Street

Name e.e. cummings house

Present use residential

Present owner Eleanor H. Wagner

3. Description:

Date 1893

Source deed records

Style primarily Colonial Revival

Architect Walker & Kimball

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features has one-story balustrated entry portico with urns at posts; two chimneys.

Altered No Date ----

Moved No Date ----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre ----

Approximate frontage 130'

Approximate distance of building from street

30'

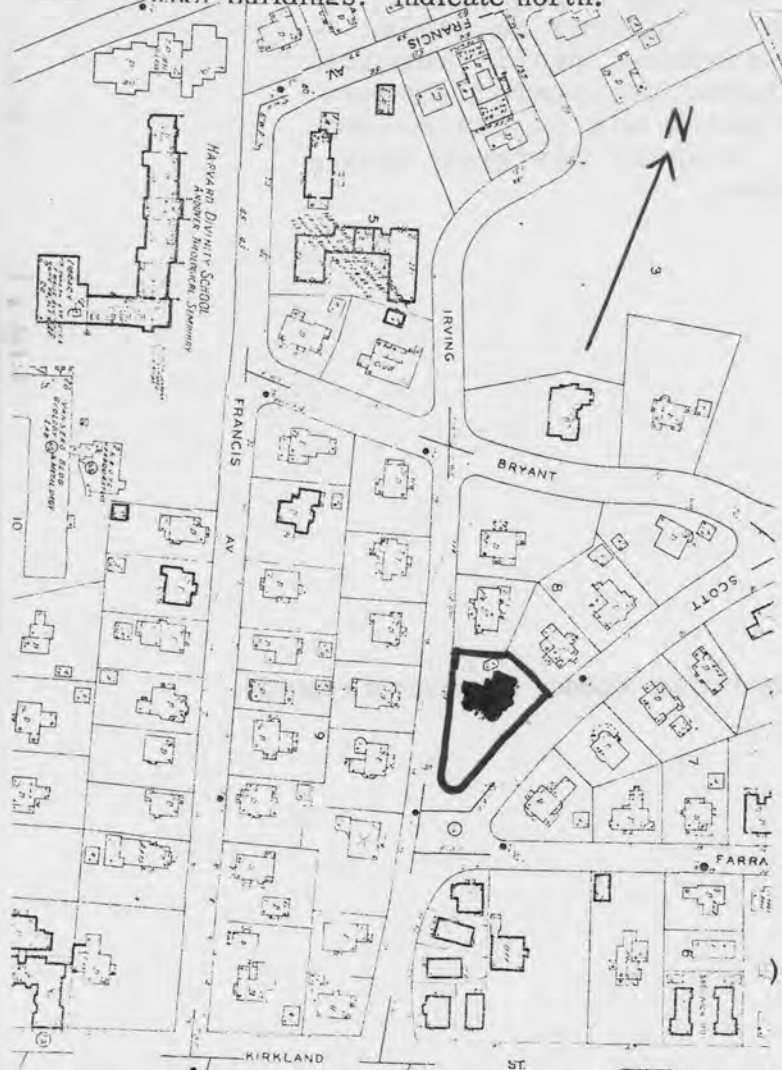
6. Recorded by A. Downing

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1966

UTM-BOSTON NORTH
19/326190/4693280

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



7. Original owner (if known) Prof. and Mrs. Edward E. Cummings

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>X</u>	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>XX</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	<u>X</u>	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Number 104 Irving Street was the childhood home of poet e.e. cummings. The house was commissioned by his father, Prof. Edward Cummings, an educator at Harvard as well as a pastor.

The building is Colonial Revival in style, and features one-over-one windows, dentil cornice with a broad frieze, and three pedimented dormers with paired windows. The porch has tuscan columns.

The house is located a short distance away from the William James House.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

NOV 14 1994

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Mid-Cambridge	Form No: MC II.B.33
Property Name: e.e. cummings house	

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

While this house is a significant for its architectural quality as a Colonial Revival building, its main importance stems from its association with e.e. cummings, who was born in the house in 1894 and lived there until he graduated from Harvard College. cummings received his Bachelor's (1915) and Master's (1917) from Harvard. In 1917 he moved to New York City where he resided at 21 E. 15th St.

cummings speaks of the house in a book entitled six nonlectures, which consists of talks originally delivered at Harvard as the Charles Eliot Norton Lectures of 1952-53. He says, "My own home faced the Cambridge world as a finely and solidly constructed mansion, preceded by a large oval lawn and ringed with an imposing white-pine hedge." And later, "One of the many wonderful things about a home is that it can be as lively as you please without ever becoming public. The big Cambridge house was in this respect, as in all other respects, a true home." cummings lived in the house with his parents, his sister, two successive grandmothers, an aunt, an uncle, and from three to four servants. From six nonlectures, it is evident that the house was of great emotional significance to the poet.

The former Cummings summer home in Silver Lake, New Hampshire, is preserved as an historic site.

The e.e. cummings house meets criteria A & C of the National Register of Historic Places.

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 10 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

91. cummings, e. e., House Substantive Review ✓ Keeper. Bruce L. Dwyer 6-30-81
Attest
92. Divinity Hall Substantive Review ✓ Keeper Patrick Andrews 9/12/86
owner objection withdrawn DOE/OWNER OBJECTION Attest Beth L. Savage 9/12/86
93. North Avenue Congregational Church ✓ Keeper Bruce L. Dwyer 6-30-81
Attest
94. Prospect Congregational Church ✓ Keeper William A. Bravham 4.13.82
Substantive Review Attest
95. University Museum ✓ Keeper Patrick Andrews 9/12/86
owner objection withdrawn DOE/OWNER OBJECTION Attest Beth L. Savage 9/12/86
96. Old Cambridge Baptist Church ✓ Keeper William H. Bravham 4.13.82
Attest
97. Ware Hall ✓ Keeper Bruce L. Dwyer 6-30-81
Attest
98. Cambridge Public Library ✓ Keeper William H. Bravham 4.13.82
Attest
99. Church of the New Jerusalem Substantive Review ✓ Keeper Bruce L. Dwyer 6-30-81
Attest
100. Busch-Reischinger House Substantive Review ✓ Keeper Ret 6/10/82
DOE/OWNER OBJECTION Attest Harvard

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Cummings, e. e., House (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MA

Working No. 11-1480-2842

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84

Date Due: 7/4/83

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/30/83

☐ RETURN

☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Eligible for NR
association with e.e.
Cummings.*

Recom./Criteria B/ACCEPT

Reviewer Mar. Briggs

Discipline A-H

Date 6/30/83

☐ 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	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ 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

ARCHITECTURE AND EDUCATION NOT ADEQUATELY
ADDRESSED... BUT ELIGIBLE FOR
ASSOCIATION WITH CUMMINGS.

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT 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: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1097-33

NOV 14 1980

9070

Cummings, e.e., House
Cambridge MRA, Ma

104 Irving St.

1097-33

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275