

FORM B - BUILDING

APR 4 1986

AREA OLD CAM.	FORM NO. II B 25A
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USGS Map #7

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

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

Photo number 55-17A

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 ATTCHED MAP

Recorded by T. Alduino  
Organization Cambridge Historical Com.  
Date 1985

UTM 19/325370/4694070  
USGS Quad: Boston South

Town Cambridge, Mass  
Cambridge MRA

Address 1648 Massachusetts Ave.

Historic Name The Montrose

Use: Present residential  
Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1898

Source building permit

Style Italian Renaissance

Architect J.S. Harold

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings NA

Major alterations (with dates) none

Moved no Date NA

Approx. acreage .1969 acre

Setting Today the northern part of Massachusetts Ave. towards Porter Square is largely a commercial strip interspersed with a few well preserved Queen Anne and Colonial Revival mansions. Closer to Harvard Square, the Avenue is anchor by several notable early 20th century apartment houses, including the Montrose, Dunvegan, Bay State and the Harvard.

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

The Montrose is a six story yellow brick building, which blends well with its neighbor, the Dunvegan. Italian Renaissance details include a copper cornice with modillions, belt courses, differentiated window treatments on each story and small circles faced with marble above the center entry. The wooden classical entry is arched and supported by fluted Ionic columns. As such, the Montrose is significant under Criterion C.

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

The Montrose, along with its neighbor the Dunvegan, were the first luxury, French flat apartment houses constructed in Cambridge. Originally, the buildings had two units to a floor, each with ten rooms....The Dunvegan also had two-room, "bachelor" apartments. After the turn of the century, Massachusetts Avenue's large homesteads increasingly gave way to apartment buildings and then commercial development, as the trolley brought in a different class of residents. For its importance in understanding this process of transformation along Mass. Ave., the Montrose is significant under Criterion A.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES** (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

SEE ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Cambridge, Mass.  
Cambridge MPA

OC  
II B 25A

Property Name: The Montrose

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

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

181. Memorial Drive Apartments Hist. Dist.

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Alvina Byers 5/19/86

Attest

182. Montrose, The

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Alvina Byers 5/19/86

Attest

183. Peabody Court Apartments

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Alvina Byers 5/19/86

Attest

184. Shady Hill Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper

Patrick Andrews 5/19/86

Attest

Beth A. Savage 5-19-86

185. Stanstead, The

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Alvina Byers 5/19/86

Attest

186. Stickney-Shepard House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Alvina Byers 5/19/86

Attest

187. Warren, H. Langford, House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Alvina Byers 5/19/86

Attest

188. Withey, S. B., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Alvina Byers 5/19/86

Attest

189. Wood, J. A., House

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Alvina Byers 5/19/86

Attest

190. Biological Laboratory

Substantive Review

Keeper

automatically  
DUE/owner obj - 1/26/87

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Determined Eligible

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Montrose, The (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 5-7-86

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**

Acreege 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: \_\_\_\_\_



The Montrose  
1648 Massachusetts Avenue

*Cambridge MA Ma* 55-17A



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275