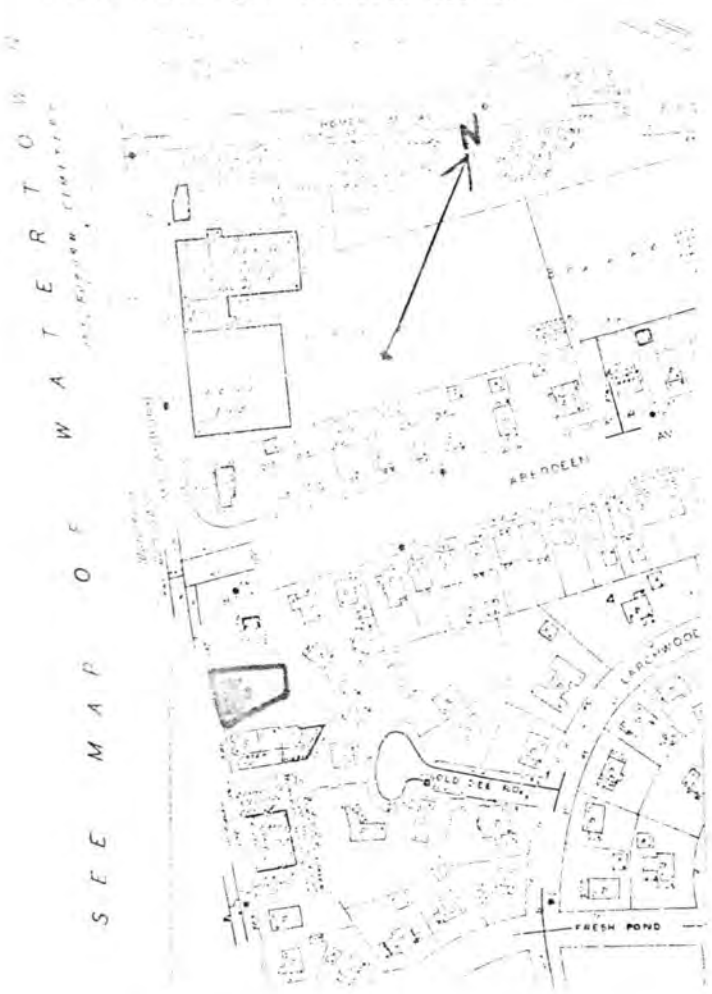


MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.	Form no.
Old Camb.	OC IIA1

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
 Staple to left side of form  
 Photo number 1110-24-A

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



ASSESSOR # 251-9

NOV 14 1980

1. Town Cambridge

Address 583 Mount Auburn Street

Name Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House

Present use commercial

Present owner Granite Trading Corporation

3. Description:

Date 1870

Source deed records

Style Bracketed Italianate

Architect Nathaniel J. Bradlee

Exterior wall fabric stucco

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features important as one of two extant Cambridge works by the architect

Altered Yes Date c. 1900

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre       

Approximate frontage 65 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

4 feet

6. Recorded by Robert Nylander

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1968

UTM - LEXINGTON

19/323530/4693500

7. Original owner (if known) Mount Auburn Cemetery

Original use Reception House

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates commercial

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

The Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House was built in 1870 on the Wyeth estate, directly opposite the cemetery entrance. It was replaced by a second reception house, built on the cemetery grounds in 1896. Number 583 Mount Auburn Street now houses Mount Auburn Marble and Granite Works.

The building is important as one of two extant Cambridge works by the architect. The other is Gray's Hall at Harvard University.

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

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House  
(Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)  
State, County: MA - Middlesex  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 11-14-80 - 2862  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 4/17/80  
Action:  ACCEPT  
 RETURN 4/13/82  
 REJECT \_\_\_\_\_

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

photos \_\_\_\_\_  
maps \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*This building's associations with Mt. Auburn cemetery are insufficiently addressed. The building's use, architectural significance and context should be discussed*

Recom. / Criteria Return  
Reviewer Patrick Andrews  
Discipline 4/13/80  
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

for NPS use only

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

UMT 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 Burham Date 4-13-82 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.
Old Camb.	OC IIA1

1. Town Cambridge

Address 583 Mount Auburn Street

Name Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House

Present use commercial

Present owner Granite Trading Corporation

3. Description:

Date 1870

Source deed records

Style Bracketed Italianate

Architect Nathaniel J. Bradlee

Exterior wall fabric stucco

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features important as one of two extant Cambridge works by the architect

Altered Yes Date c. 1900

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre       

Approximate frontage 65 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 4 feet

6. Recorded by Robert Nylander

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1968

UTM - LEXINGTON  
19/323330/A693500

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number 1110-24A

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



ASSESSOR # 251-9

NOV 14 1980

7. Original owner (if known) Mount Auburn Cemetery

Original use Reception House

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates commercial

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science/ invention	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/ humanitarian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Community development	<input type="checkbox"/>				

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

The Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House was built in 1870 on the Wyeth estate, directly opposite the cemetery entrance. It was replaced by a second reception house, built on the cemetery grounds in 1896. Number 583 Mount Auburn Street now houses Mount Auburn Marble and Granite Works.

The building is important as one of two extant Cambridge works by the architect. The other is Gray's Hall at Harvard University.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Old Cambridge	Form No: OC II.A.1
Property Name: Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House	

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

After its opening in 1831, the Mount Auburn Cemetery gained international attention not only as the most prestigious place of burial in the Boston area but as the first garden cemetery in the United States. As such, it reflected changing attitudes toward death in Western society, and was the model for numerous landscaped cemeteries throughout the country. On a strictly local level, it became an afternoon and weekend attraction of great popularity. So great was the demand that the first horse car route in New England was built from Boston through Harvard Square to a terminal at the cemetery gate; it opened in 1853. The cemetery is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

By 1870, the need for a reception house for funeral parties was acute, as the two rooms in the gate itself were deemed inadequate. The Cemetery Trustees purchased a site across Mount Auburn Street and hired the Boston architect Nathaniel J. Bradlee, architect of Grays Hall at Harvard University (1862; Old Harvard Yard N.R.D.) and of numerous commercial buildings in Boston, to prepare a design. Bradlee's design was for a one-story building forty-six feet wide and thirty feet deep with a center entrance and a hip roof. A portico supported by four smoothly tapered posts runs the full width of the building, and a pedimented cross gable projects on two additional posts over the front entrance. Both the gable and frieze board are ornamented with incised floral decoration, while the center of the pediment holds a cartouche for a clock. The body of the building is stuccoed. It was replaced by a second reception house built on the grounds of the Cemetery in 1896.

The Mount Auburn Cemetery Gatehouse is significant for its associations with the Cemetery, and thus meets Criterion A. It is also significant architecturally and as the work of N. J. Bradlee, and meets Criterion C.

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 12 of 17

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area  
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
111. Mason, W. A., House <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>Thomas H. Doyle 6-30-83</u> Attest _____
112. Building at 259 Mount Auburn Street <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>Thomas H. Doyle 6-30-83</u> Attest _____
113. Howells, William Dean, House <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>William H. Brauman 4.13.82</u> Attest _____
114. Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>Thomas H. Doyle 6-30-83</u> Attest _____
115. Mount Auburn Hospital - Main Building <i>Determined Eligible</i> <b>DOE/OWNER OBJECTION</b>	Keeper <u>Thomas H. Doyle 6-30-83</u> Attest _____
116. Higginson, Colonel Thomas Wentworth, House <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>William H. Brauman 4.13.82</u> Attest _____
117. Noyes, J. A., House <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>William H. Brauman 4.13.82</u> Attest _____
118. Coolidge, Josiah, House <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>Thomas H. Doyle 6-30-83</u> Attest _____
119. Orne, Sarah, House <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>Thomas H. Doyle 6-30-83</u> Attest _____
120 Hooper-Eliot House <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u>Thomas H. Doyle 6-30-83</u> Attest _____

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House  
(Cambridge MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MA

Working No. 11.14.80-2862  
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:

*Significance greatly strengthened*

Recom. / Criteria A.C. / script  
Reviewer Mr. [unclear]  
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

Conditions		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates

---

## 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

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## 10. Geographical Data

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

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

USGS References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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



1110-24A

JUL 11 1961

Cambridge MRA, Ma  
Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House

043C

583 Mt. Auburn St.  
1110 - 24A



MT. AUBURN MEMORIALS Inc.

EST. 1908

Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House  
583 Mount Auburn Street

CHC1196-21

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275