

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. Old Camb.	Form no. <u>OC</u> IIB21
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1. Town Cambridge

Address 29 Buckingham Street

Name Colonel Thomas Wentworth
Higginson House

Present use residential

Present owner William & Neva Fowler

3. Description:

Date 1880

Source deed records

Style Queen Anne

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features a building of modest size
double dutch front door, 9/9 window
sashes, shingled.

Altered Yes-1story wood Date addition-----1888

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 88 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
42 feet

6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1964

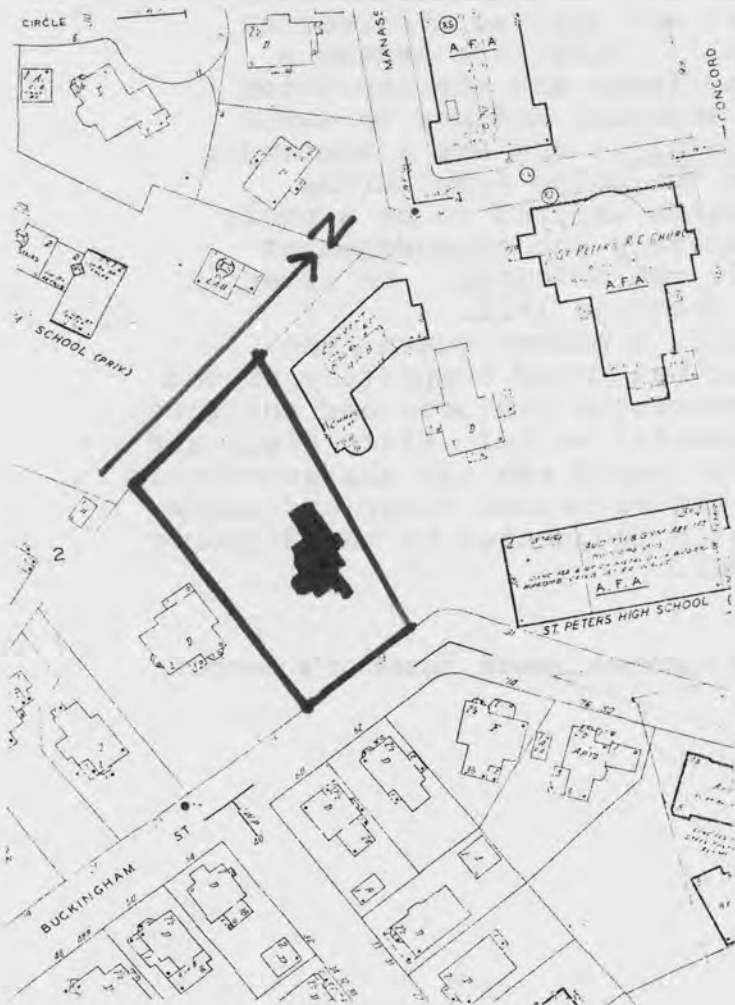
UTM - LEXINGTON
19/324590/4694000

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

Staple to left side of form

Photo number 1099-17

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



Assessor # 226-2

7. Original owner (if known) Thomas Wentworth Higginson

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This was the home of Thomas W. Higginson, an abolitionist, reformer, and author, who was born in Cambridge in 1823 and graduated from Harvard College at the age of seventeen. After several years spent teaching, he graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1847 and started a career as a Unitarian minister. Eventually, Higginson became a leading proponent of women's suffrage and the abolition of slavery. He wrote numerous articles and was an early contributor to the Atlantic Monthly, and was a commander of the first Black regiment in the Union Army during the Civil War. Although Higginson aspired to be a poet, he is better known for his discovery and encouragement of Emily Dickinson than for his own writings. He lived in the house from 1880 until his death in 1911.

While the house is basically a modest Queen Anne style, it is notable in that it has moved completely beyond the Stick Style to include picturesque features and shingles. The latticed arch, curved pedimental relief, steep pitch and bracket supports of the entrance porch are all characteristic of the Queen Anne style. The entire second floor and gable are shingled. The house has been documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS).

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

NOV 14 1980

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

Substantive Review Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 6-30-83

Attest

112. Building at 259 Mount Auburn Street

Substantive Review Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 6-30-83

Attest

113. Howells, William Dean, House

Substantive Review Keeper

William H. Brahm 4.13.82

Attest

114. Mount Auburn Cemetery Reception House

Substantive Review Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 6-30-83

Attest

115. Mount Auburn Hospital — Main Building

Determined Eligible

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 6-30-83

Attest

116. Higginson, Colonel Thomas Wentworth, House

Substantive Review Keeper

William H. Brahm 4.13.82

Attest

117. Noyes, J. A., House

Substantive Review Keeper

William H. Brahm 4.13.82

Attest

118. Coolidge, Josiah, House

Substantive Review Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 6-30-83

Attest

119. Orne, Sarah, House

Substantive Review Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 6-30-83

Attest

120 Hooper-Eliot House

Substantive Review Keeper

Bruce M. Dwyer 6-30-83

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Higginson, Col. Thomas Wentworth, House
Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
 State, County: MA - Middlesex
 Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-2862

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 4-17-82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/13/82☐ RETURN _____☐ REJECT _____photos 1

maps _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

*Excellent statement of
 significance -*

Recom./Criteria B+CReviewer BrahamDiscipline Arch/HistorianDate 4.2.82☐ 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 SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. 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 _____ Area 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 Reference _____

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 _____

Site _____ 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



1099-17

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MRA, Ma

Higginson, Colonel Thomas Wentworth, House

0740

29 Buckingham St.

1099-17

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275