

APR - 4 1986

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA. 02108

Form numbers in this area	Area letter
Old Cambridge	I 12

USGS Map: G

Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form

Photo number 38-19
38-17A
 67-17
 67-3

Town Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge MRA

Name of area (if any) Gray Gardens

East and West Historic District

General date or period 1922-1930

Sketch map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient)

SEE ATTACHED MAP

USGS Quad: Lexington

6.366 acres

UTM's A-19/324940/4694380
 B-19/324680/4694240
 C-19/324580/4694300
 D-19/324630/4694380
 E-19/324690/4694340
 F-19/324830/4694480
 G-19/324900/4694470

Recorded by Therese Alduino

Organization Cambridge Hist. Com.

Date 1985

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Describe physical setting, general character, and architecturally significant structures).

Most of the buildings in the Gray Gardens district were designed in the Georgian Revival style. The similarity in mass, material and placement of the buildings, as well as the short building period, make this district especially harmonious.

One of the most authentic examples of this Neo-Georgian style is 4 Gray Gardens Street (Howe and Manning, 1922). Expertly sited on a triangular plot, the brick house is well-scaled throughout and features a pilastered entrance vestibule, a simple cornice and small paned windows. A more elaborate, though stylistically less correct example, can be found at 1 Gray Gardens East (A.H. Hansen, 1925). Details include an ornate entrance porch with finials above, fans over the first story entrance and windows and trumpet corbels at the cornice. More provincial are the simple shingled houses at 14 and 16 Gray Gardens West and the clapboarded homes at 27 and 30 Gray Gardens East.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE of area. (Explain development of area, what caused it, and how it affected community; be specific). Continued

Gray Gardens East and West was established in 1922 when local residents became alarmed at the prospect of a speculator buying the 8 1/2 acre Dresser estate and constructing rows of two-family suburban housing. Dresser was president of the Cambridgeport Dairy Co., and the City National Bank. His estate at 60 Raymond Street, originally built by Jonas Wyeth II, was among the last to be subdivided in the Observatory Hill area of Cambridge. The Wyeth family had owned extensive property in the area as early as the mid-seventeenth century.

Enough interested persons were found to acquire the land, establish the Garden Street Trust, and agree upon a set of thirty-year restrictions. The owners' economic status was not a factor in determining the harmonious nature of the neighborhood, as the housing costs ranged from \$7000 to \$50,000. The street pattern was laid out by a member of the trust and provided for an average frontage of sixty-five feet. Occupancy was limited to single families; lots were not for sale to builders or speculators; and an architectural control board was established. Most of the buildings were constructed between 1922-1930. Continued

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED BIBLIOGRAPHY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Cambridge Mass.
Cambridge MRA

Form No:

O.C.
I 12

Property Name: Gray Gardens

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

Criteria For Evaluation

The Gray Gardens East and West Historic District is significant as a 1920's planned residential neighborhood that possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship and feeling. The best example of 1920's single family domestic architecture in Cambridge, it meets Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places. The Gray Gardens East and West National Register District was found to be significant under the themes of early twentieth century residential architecture and community design, as proposed by Dr. Cynthia Zaitzevsky to the Review Committee for the Study of Architecture of Harvard University and its Environs in Cambridge.

The subdivision plan for Gray Gardens East and West consists of one cul-de-sac of eight houses (Gray Gardens West), and one conventional suburban block, with a small cul-de-sac of three houses at the eastern end (Gray Gardens East). The layout of Gray Gardens West has a landscaped plot separating it from Garden Street and a similiar strip within. Lots are large and well-landscaped. Architecturally, this well-maintained neighborhood contains almost exclusively Neo-Georgian homes, all originally single family. Also contributing to the marked architectural cohesiveness of the district is the fact that sixteen of its twenty-eight buildings were designed by three firms: Putnam and Cox, Duguid and Martin, and Howe and Manning.

The boundaries of the Gray Gardens East and West Historic District are very distinct. The houses included within the district are limited to those fronting on the streets laid out by the Garden Street Trust in the 1920's. Set off by 1950's University housing to the south and 1890's multi-family homes to the west and north, Gray Gardens East and West forms an entity nto itself.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge Mass. Cambridge MRA	Form No: I 12
Property Name: Gray Gardens East and West	

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

Architectural Significance con't.

Although most of the houses in the district are Georgian Revival in style, there are a few noteworthy exceptions. The Hall tavern, 20 Gray Gardens West, was built in South Duxbury, Mass., and moved to Cambridge in 1930. The style is Federal, with residual High Georgian details such as the Doric entablature and pilasters that frame the elliptical doorway and the wide corner boards that are scored and painted to resemble quoins. An elaborate cornice molding includes diminutive trumpet corbels used like dentils. The shingled wall surface is an original detail. Sash is 12/12.

Also atypical of the neighborhood is 16 Gray Gardens East, designed in 1922 by Graham Carey for himself. Neo-Tudor in style, the house displays such characteristic features as half-timbering combined with unusual carved rope molding around the windows and doors and carved bargeboards.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Cambridge Mass.
Cambridge MRA

O.C.
I 12

Property Name: Gray Gardens N.R.D.

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.
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Cambridge, MA.
- Paige, L.R., History of Cambridge (1877), Boston, MA.; Supplement
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- Rand, C., Cambridge, U.S.A. (1964), New York, NY.
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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.

Gray Gardens National Register District Cambridge Mass., Cambridge MRA
DISTRICT DATA SHEET

1.

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE *	N/NC **
207,24	NA	91 Garden St.	1922	CR	C
207,68	NA	1 Gray Gardens East	1925	CR,NG	C
207,67	NA	2 Gray Gardens East	1930	NG	C
207,35	NA	3 Gray Gardens East	1923	CR,NG	C
207,71	NA	8 Gray Gardens East	1923	CR	C
207,39	NA	9 Gray Gardens East	1922	CR	C
207,40	NA	11 Gray Gardens East	1924	CR	C
207,66	NA	12 Gray Gardens East	1922	NG	C
207,41	NA	13 Gray Gardens East	1925	NG	C
207,28,58	NA	16 Gray Gardens East	1922	NT	C
207,42	NA	17 Gray Gardens East	1958	CR	NC
207,43	NA	19 Gray Gardens East	1927	CR	C
207,27	NA	22 Gray Gardens East	1962	MD	NC
207,65	NA	25 Gray Gardens East	1926	CR	C
207,26	NA	26 Gray Gardens East	1922-1923	CR	C
207,45,51	NA	27 Gray Gardens East	1923	NG	C
207,25	NA	30 Gray Gardens East	1928	CR	C
207,69	NA	31 Gray Gardens East	1924	NG	C
207,50,54	NA	37 Gray Gardens East	1923	NG	C
227,60	NA	3 Gray Gardens West	1923	NG	C

DISTRICT DATA SHEET

MAP #	HISTORIC NAME	STREET ADDRESS	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	STYLE *	C/E.C*
227,69	NA	4 Gray Gardens West	1922	NG	C
227,87	NA	11 Gray Gardens West	1923	CR	C
227,67	NA	14 Gray Gardens West	1924	SS	C
227,63	NA	15 Gray Gardens West	1929	NG	C
227,66	NA	16 Gray Gardens West	1925	CR	C
227,89	Hall Tavern	20 Gray Gardens West	1798	GG	C
227,88	NA	24 Gray Gardens West	1928	CR	C
207,64	NA	60 Raymond St.	1927	NG	C

* GG=Georgian; CR=Colonial Revival; NG= Neo-Georgian; NT= Neo-Tudor; SS= Shingle Style.

** C=Contributing; NC=Non-Contributing.

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

- 250yr 171. Cambridge Common Historic District
(Boundary Increase) **Substantive Review**
Entered in the National Register Keeper automatically listed 1/26/88
Attest
- 172. Dana-Palmer House **Substantive Review**
Keeper Patrick Andrus 5/19/86
Attest Betsy L. Savage 5-14-88
- 173. Dunvegan, The **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest
- 174. Eliot Hall at Radcliffe College **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest
- 175. Follen Street Historic District **Substantive Review**
Keeper Patrick Andrus 5/19/86
Attest Betsy L. Savage 5-14-88
- 176. Fogg Art Museum **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest
- 177. Gray Gardens East and West H. Dist. **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest
- 178. Harvard Union **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper automatically listed 1/26/88
Attest
- 179. Hapgood, Richard, House **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest
- 180. Jarvis, The **Entered in the National Register**
Keeper Alvina Byers 5/19/86
Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Gray Gardens East and West Historic District
(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 5-19-86
 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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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
<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
- 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

Gray Gardens East and West Historic District
 Cambridge, MA
 Middlesex County
 MASSACHUSETTS

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreege 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: _____



Gray Gardens East & West
N.R.D.

16 Gray Gardens East 67-17



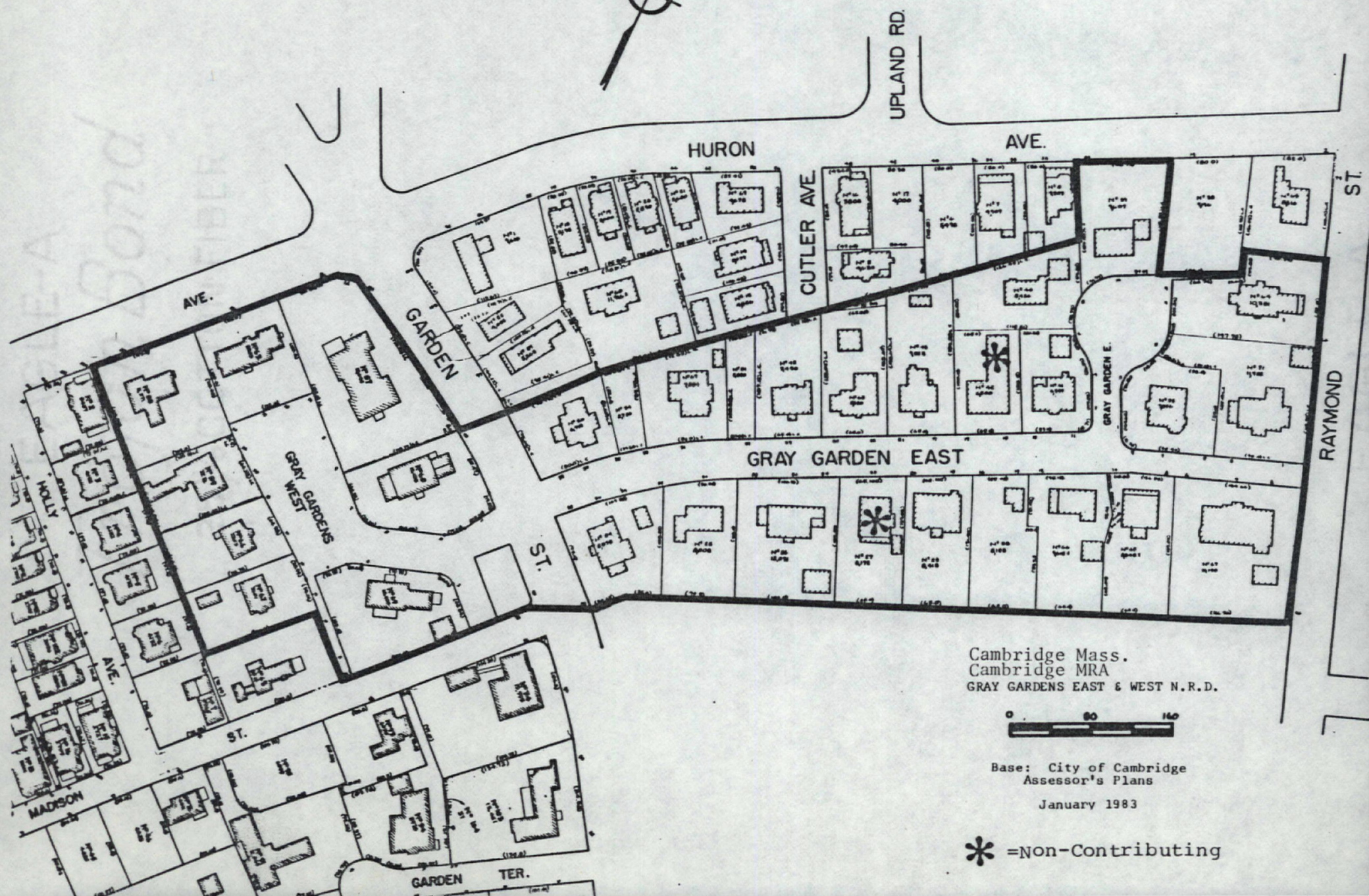
Gray Gardens East & West
N.R.D.

30 Gray Gardens East 67-3



Gray Gardens East & West
N.R.D.

4 Gray Gardens West 38-17A



Cambridge Mass.
Cambridge MRA
GRAY GARDENS EAST & WEST N.R.D.



Base: City of Cambridge
Assessor's Plans
January 1983

* = Non-Contributing

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275

Grey Gardens HB

RECEIVED

Mrs. James Donovan

91 Garden Street

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

FEB 10 1986

SZ

MASS. HIST. COMM.
2.2.86

Massachusetts Historical Commission
Attn: Valerie A. Salmons -

Thank you for sending me the interesting
material about Historic Districts.

As sole owner of this property I hereby
state that I do not wish it to be
included in the National Register of
Historic Places.

Very truly yours,

Frances E. Donovan
(Mrs James)

William F. Baird III 2-2-86

WILLIAM F. BAIRD III 1/1/88