

Digitizing and Exposing the Cambridge Survey of Architectural History

Meta Partenheimer
Paul Cote

Cambridge Historical Commission
pbc Geographic Information Services



cultivating spatial intelligence®

pbc
GIS

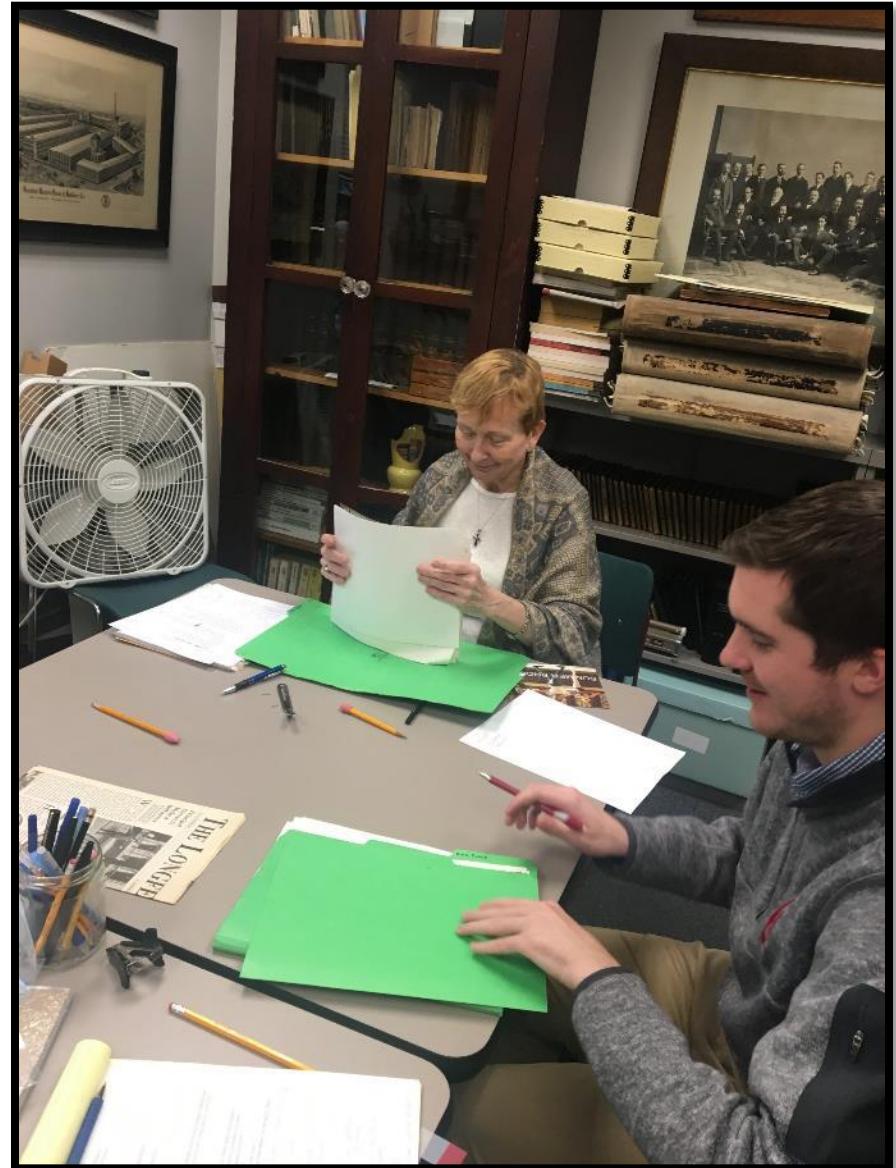


City housing survey ca. 1950





CHC book series *Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge*



CHC staff at work in 1989 and 2018

ON 1877 VIEW AS

CAMBRIDGE ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

ADDRESS: 127 Western Ave



USE: residential commercial religious

STORIES: 1 2 (3) 4 5

TYPE: single double row duplex 3-decker double d tenement apartment

ROOF: hip gable front gable flank mansard flat

MATERIAL: frame brick

SIDING: original subsequent

PLACEMENT: narrow to street broad to street square

ENTRANCE: flank front side front center

STYLE: L.Geo. Grk.Rev. Brk-It. Mans. Med. Q.A. C.Rev. None+ None-

ORNAMENT: little moderate elaborate

DATE: 1790 1800 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 1900 10 20 30

MAP: Bling on 1854 SD - 1896?

REMODELING: drastic moderate minor

CONDITION: poor fair good excellent

IMPORTANCE TO SETTING: detrimental none moderate great

INITIALED: AJK 11/71

DESCRIPTION:

Owner in 11/18/71 says that big leaves old - fireplaces etc.

3 fire places . behind oven came out 1930'

Fireplace 2ft + 5ft long

rebuilt as SD in 1890's

24" ctrs / 2x4 / 4x4 through bolt.

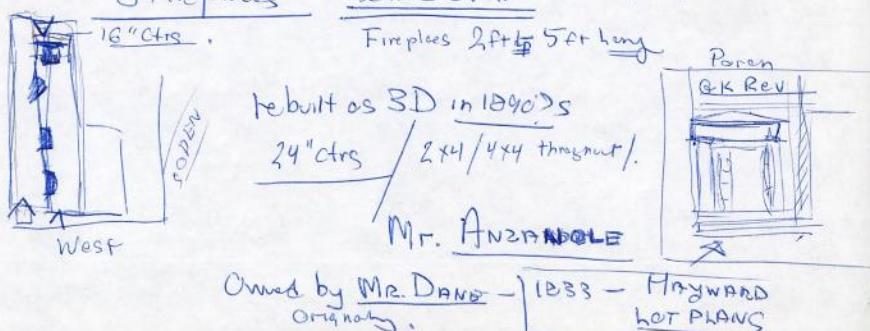
Porch
Grk Rev

Mr. ANZANDOLE

16" ctrs . OPEN

West

Owned by Mr. DANE - 1883 - Maynard Hot Plans



CAMBRIDGE ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

ADDRESS: 770 Mass Ave



52/24A-25

USE: residential commercial religious public - Post Office

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 5

TYPE: single double row duplex 3-decker double d tenement apartment

ROOF: hip gable front gable flank mansard flat

MATERIAL: frame brick

SIDING: original subsequent

PLACEMENT: narrow to street broad to street square

ENTRANCE: flank front side front center

STYLE: L.Geo. Grk.Rev. Brk-It. Mans. Med. Q.A. C.Rev. Non+ Non-

ORNAMENT: little moderate elaborate

(1933)

DATE: 1790 1800 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 1900 10 20 30

MAP: 30 → Charles R. Greco, architect, with Joseph D. Leland

REMODELING: drastic moderate minor

CONDITION: poor fair good excellent

IMPORTANCE TO SETTING: detrimental none moderate great

INITIALED: _____

DESCRIPTION:

327/3A

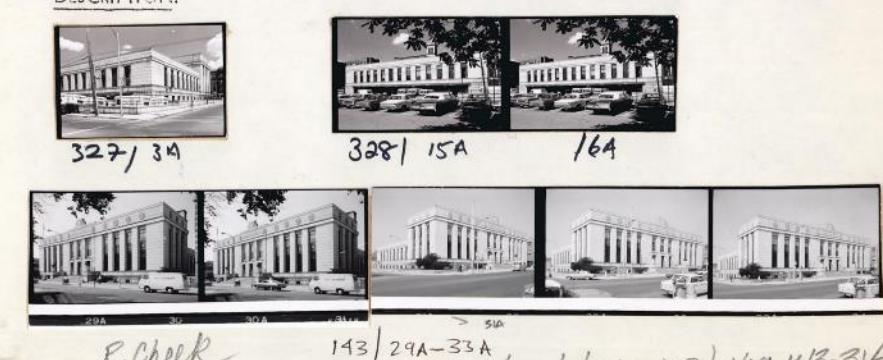
328/15A 16A

29A 30A 30A 31A 32A

R-Chek 7/968

143/29A-33A

Images/Custo/Binnie2/Mg 143-31A
Mass Ave Post Office



Architectural Inventory Form

Shady Hill
National Register District

Street Address	Outbuildings?	
2-4 Farrar Street		
CHC Survey Form	Building Date	Building Permit #?
Col-Rew - 1927	#29228 (13 June 1927)	
Daniel Conin		
Hail Survey	Building Date	Bldg Permit #/Tax Date/Deed Ref?
Daniel Conin	1927	#29228
Atlas/Map Data	Present?	Owner Name Associated
1873	no	
1886	no	
1894	no	
1903	no	
1916	no	
1930	yes	Annie T. Conin
House Book Data (attach sketch of plan)		
Book and Page	Date of Sketch	
73, 61	July 18, 1927	
City Directory (earliest or original owner)		
Date	Entry/Occupation	
1926-27	Daniel Conin, mason	
1928	Daniel Conin, real estate home @ 45 Reservoir	

1872-75

ADDRESS: 18 Prescott st

DATE	REF.	GRANTOR	GRANTEE	PRICE	DESCRIPTION
12 Oct	1234- 1872	trs. of Curtis	J. H. Littlefield George H. Lyon		ne 16 Prescott st for origin of lot
12 Oct	1234- 1872	Littlefield Lyon	Curtis	<u>mark</u>	
1872	"		George H. Lyon	\$1000	cellar Prescott st + lot 7 Curtis 2000] all added in pencil
1873	"		"	\$1000	cellar Prescott st L sold to W. B. Durant]
			Wm B. Durant		cellar + lot Prescott st 7 G. H. Lyon] all added in pencil
			Elijah A. + Mary C. Ballant		Prescott st Lyon lot 7 W. B. Durant] all added in pencil
5 July	1269- 1873	Josh H. Littlefield 7 Curtis	George H. Lyon Curtis	\$1	NE part of lot conv. by Curtis trs. ne 1234-532 NW - Prescott st 50' NE - Curtis 131'2" SE - " 50'16" SW - rest of lot conv. by Lyon to Littlefield • 127'2.44"

CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION RESEARCHER: DATE:

Photographed 500
visited 100 interiors

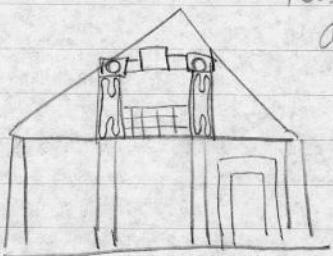
School of Architecture Library
Robinson Hall ^{xiii} 300 additional photos

Plate XXX North Haverhill, N.H.

Stone house

1½ story Grk Rev - wood gable
1st fl four column colonnade
balcony between 2 ctrl columns
with pattern book entablature
Tuscan

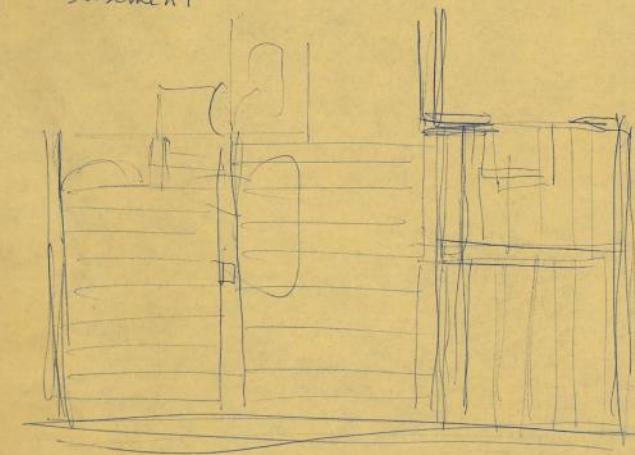
apparent wood railing



7 Waterhouse St.

Waterhouse house

basement



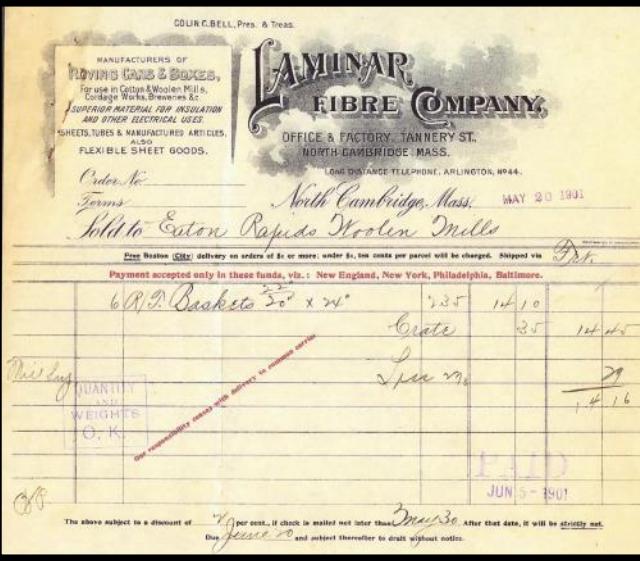
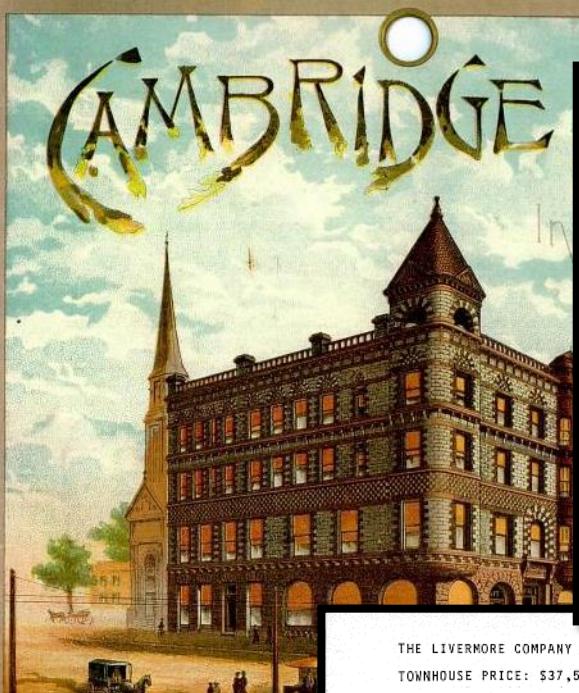
inspected 1/9/67
Photos taken by
B. Orr

frmd. more or less continuous - as far as it goes
but framing different in two halves

first floor similarly framed

framing in right hand room
against orig. wall

right-hand rooms 18th c. panelling
left-hand (earlier) rooms -
simple Fed/GR mantels



THE LIVERMORE COMPANY
TOWNHOUSE PRICE: \$37,500 (MIDDLE UNIT)

JANUARY APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S	M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2

FEBRUARY MAY

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5

MARCH JUNE

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5

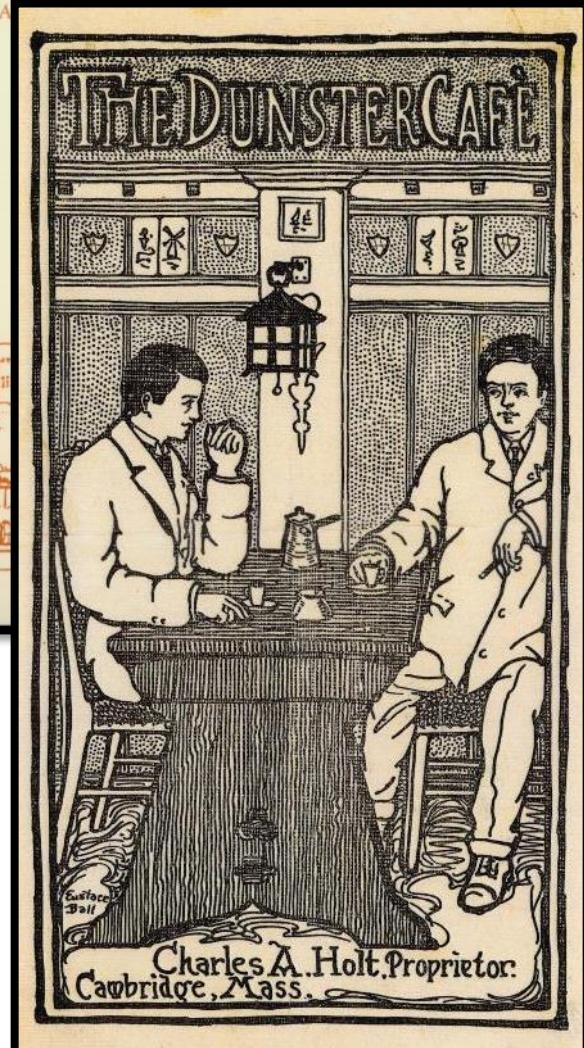
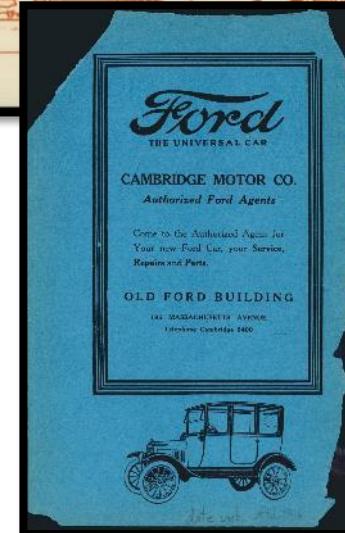
SECTION
SCALE IN FEET

LIVERMORE TOWN HOUSES

Ephemera

EVERY ROOM A VIEW

CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MIT'S BAKER HOUSE,
DESIGNED BY ALVA



October 3, 1904.

Mass. Ave. N. S. ca Shindoe St.

MASS. AVE.

Middlesex Lounge¹⁴

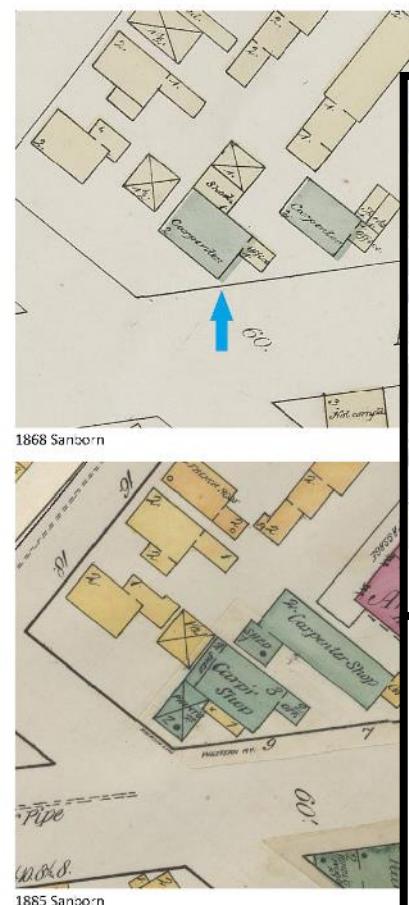
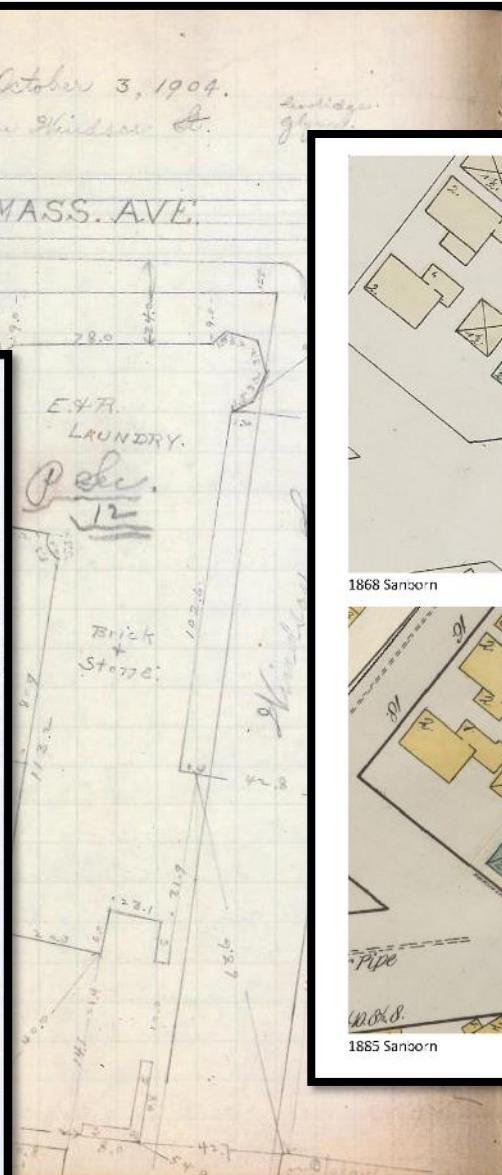
315 Massachusetts Avenue

One of the last remaining hip hop- and techno-oriented dance clubs in Cambridge, Middlesex has also hosted several queer-specific nights over the past decade. Currently, the lounge hosts every other occurrence of *Houseboi*, a bimonthly party described as "a genderqueer dance party for humans and their friends" that swaps between Middlesex Lounge and Oberon. Until this past October, the bar also hosted one of Boston's longest-running dance parties on Thursday nights, Make It New, which hosted many queer DJ's from outside Boston amongst its lineups.



Figure 28 (Left): Outside of Middlesex Lounge. (Source: <https://www.facebook.com/middlesexlounge/>)
 Figure 29(Right): Poster for Houseboi, a queer party held regularly at Middlesex Lounge. (Source: <https://www.facebook.com/middlesexlounge/photos/repost-shampayne8-houseboi-is-tonight-at-middlesexlounge-in-cambridge-special-gu-2284462221569133/>)

Walk 0.2 more miles on Massachusetts Avenue. The building where Paradise used to be will be on your right, at the intersection with Albany Street.



Supplemental Material

CHA Corcoran Park Modernization

Project Overview - Cambridge Community Development Dept (CDD)

Presentation Draft | March 6, 2024



Sustainability + Resiliency: Flooding

Description of Space	Long Term Flood Elevation (LTFE)	HHS City of Cambridge Vertical Datum (check)	Notes
New Occupiable Space	10% LTFF	58.3	Date of LTFF:
New Habitable Space	1% LTFF	41.6	Date of LTFF:
All Building Areas	10% LTFF	58.3	Date of LTFF:

2030 100-YEAR STORM IMPACT

2070 10-YEAR STORM

2070 100-YEAR STORM IMPACT



studio g architects

kmdg

CORCORAN PARK
PROJECT OVERVIEW

Nish Engineering

03-06-2024

CHA
Cambridge Housing Authority

102-97

ADDITIONAL WARD FIVE BUILDINGS.

J. P. Nolan began early in the spring an apartment house at 41 Sacramento street. It is a wooden structure. It is 22 by 45, and three stories. N. A. Eastwood was the builder.

At No. 106 and 108 Reed street, E. R. Dix has been an active operator in the construction of three wooden dwellings. Each is 22 by 26, and one and one-half stories high. Charles Cutler drew Mr. Dix's plans.

The new wooden dwelling on Walden street, for which a permit was issued in April, is 26 by 40, two and one-half stories high. Each part is 13 by 20. It was built by Messrs. Henry Waugh and Orin Watson. It is 25 by 40, two and one-half stories.

Buckley, architect, and O. Watson,

builder, were the effective combination in the work.

David Robert is the owner and builder

of a wooden dwelling at 3 Madison avenue. It is 20 by 30, and one-half story

An early summer permit was issued to the architect to Bernard MacFie for a wooden dwelling at 4 Donnell street. The

permit is for a building of two stories,

25 by 40. Edward Moses and

Melanson Bros. were the builders.

Among other interesting building

projects is a house for Annie M.

Boyle, at 21 Andrews street, four stories,

25 by 40. Edward Moses builds

from plans drawn by Prescott & Sidebotham, of Boston.

Ralph N. Dow drew the plans and

designed a building for Catherine

Normoye's wooden

apartment house at 11 Madison street. It

was begun this summer. It is 30 by 30

by 40, and one-half story.

Miss Lura L. Page is building a double

house on Frost street. C. H. McClare is

the architect, and Wellington Fillmore &

Co. are the contractors. Miss

Page is a sister of Mr. Widener. Paul

The West End car house on Massachu-

setts avenue is not far from its comple-

tion. It is being done in a busy work-

shop. Since it was begun the operation is

a large affair, as shown by its dimen-

sions.

Stone, 36 by 44 by 38, one story. It is

Built of brick. West End architects and

builders have carried on the work.

The house is carefully designed to meet the

demand that has long been pressing for

a suitable place to stall cars in this part

of the city.

Mr. Warren K. Blodgett's new residence

at 1 Acadia street, was completed in the

spring after a night of Chandler drew

the plans. Bellamy & Harris were the

builders, and Brock Bros. the plumbers.

47 EXCEMPTED ST NW
49 REED ST NW

LOC 102

3 MADISON AVE NW
11 DONNELL ST NW

LOC 102

11 MADISON AVE OC

6 FROST ST WC
2369 WABE AVE NW

7 ACTIA ST OC

13

Desirable Property FOR SALE.

Mr. Charles E. Tibbets, being about to go to California to reside, offers his

Residence, Horses, Carriages, Furniture, Ice Privilege and Ice House for sale at a bargain.

The House is situated at the corner of Mead street and Cogswell avenue, and numbered 30 Mead street; contains ten rooms (including bath-room), furnace, cemented cellar, gas, soapstone sink in kitchen, washroom with soapstone tubs, water closet in cellar, kitchen range, and all the conveniences that could be asked for; with 4,500 feet of land.

The Furniture consists of many desirable pieces of modern design.

Also to be sold: A Lot of Land, in the rear of the house, containing 15,000 feet, on which is situated a shed and stable, with accommodations for seven horses; artesian well on premises.

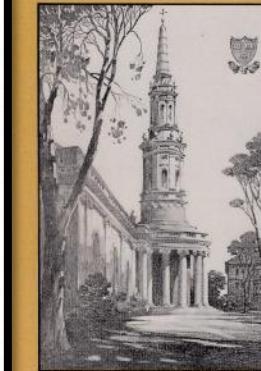
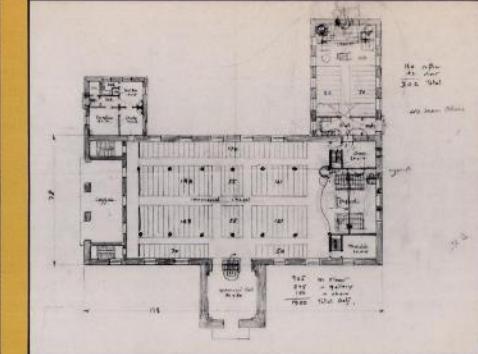
Several horses, harnesses and carriages are included in the property for sale.

The Ice Privilege is located at the foot of Spruce street, North Cambridge, and is one of the best to be found. The ice houses are new and have a capacity for 5,500 ton, containing improved hoisting machinery put in last fall.

The above desirable property will be sold at fair figures, on application to the owner, C. E. TIBBETS, 30 Mead street, or L. M. HANNUM, Cambridgeport.

CC July 16, 1887

Published Material



We take the Yard very much for granted, forgetting the situation in Lowell's day, when Dean Edgell could write, in *The American Architecture of Today* (1928):

What a nightmare confronts the future planner of Harvard. Our admirable forebears had little idea of planning an architectural ensemble. . . . There is not a building really on axis with anything else. Almost no coherent arrangement can be found for new buildings. . . . To make matters worse a peaceful village [Harvard Square] has turned into a bustling city.

Memorial Church is a brilliant stroke with which two centuries of building were indeed persuaded into harmony and given a peaceful setting. For example, one of the most arresting parts of the church is the memorial transept and portico. As architectural historian J.D. Forbes pointed out in 1958 in his article on the Coolidge transept and portico. As architectural historian J.D. Forbes pointed out in 1958 in his article on the Coolidge

Design process. Above, left, an early memorial proposal for a "shaft" to be placed in front of University Hall. The colonnade and tower of the first design for Memorial Church (far left) were recognizably derived from St. Paul, Deptford, 1712-30 (middle, left). Like this London church, Harvard's was to have been of stone. The plan (above) also changed: as first envisaged, the chapel was not in the chancel position. As built, Memorial Church's interior is reminiscent in several respects of Wren's St. Stephen's, Walbrook, London (lower left).

nificance is noted by Bainbridge Bunting and Robert H. Nylander in their *Old Cambridge*, where they remark:

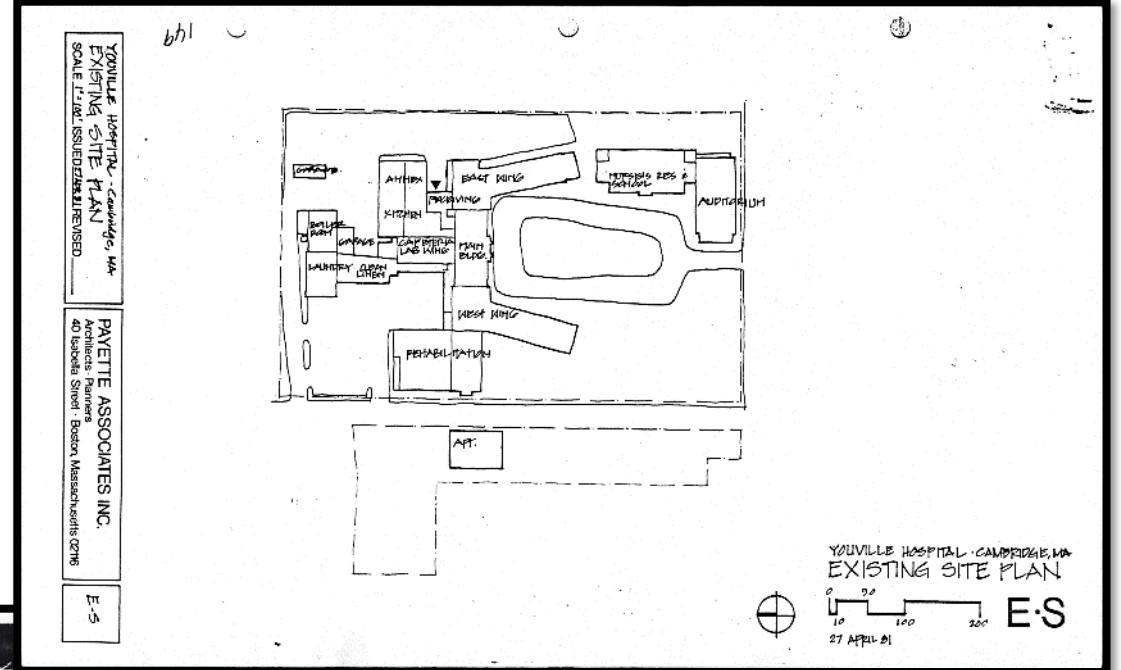
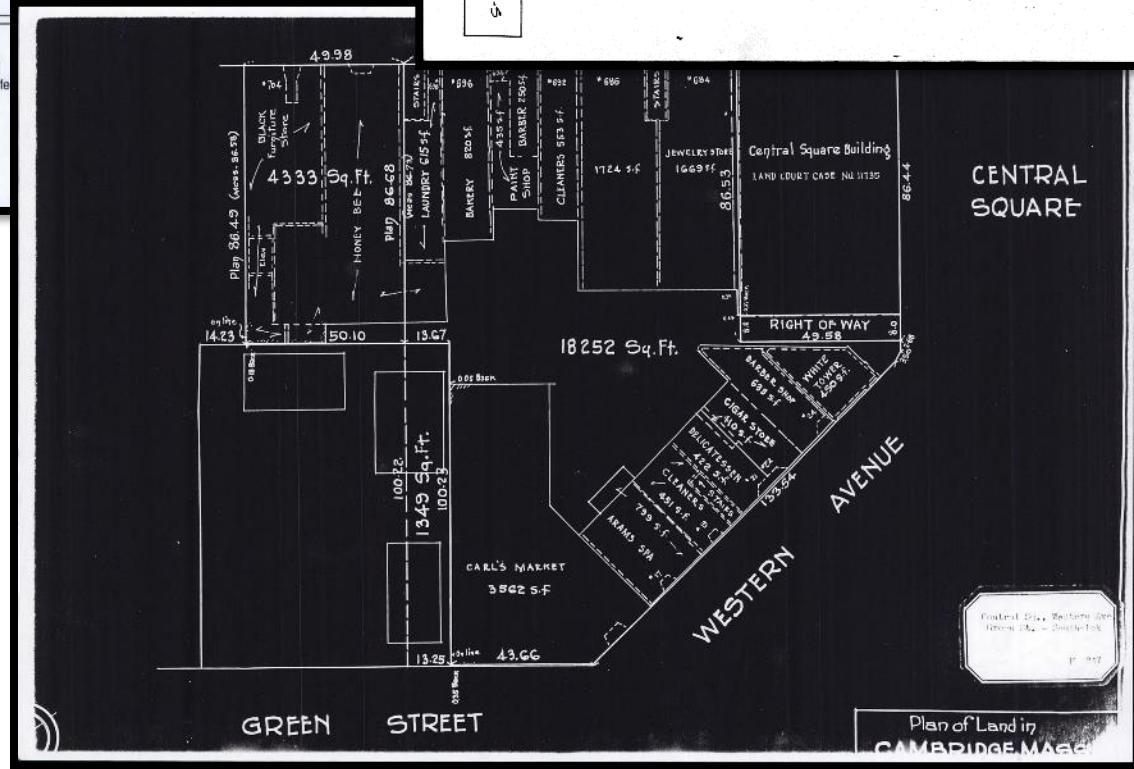
How infinitely better is the design, placement, and scale of [Memorial Church] than was that of Appleton Chapel . . . on the same site. . . . the tower with the portico at its base on axis with Widener serves to define the limits of the quadrangle, and together they form the "scena" and "cavea" of a great unroofed theatre. . . . The enormous Doric portico . . . is wisely scaled to the ponderous colonnade of Widener.

The other stroke of genius in formulating a cohesive and unified feeling within Harvard Yard was the series of seven structures along Massachusetts Avenue which effectively "cloister" the Yard and screen out the noise and the visual disarray of Harvard Square.

Another striking feature is the church's tower, which seems too tall for so long and low a building, until one imagines a heavier feature. Just as the building itself was designed to work with its fellows along the river—the



Plans



Longfellow house

The US House Interior Committee approved a measure, already passed by the US Senate, that appropriates \$586,600 for preservation of the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow House on Brattle street, Cambridge. Longfellow occupied the house from 1837-1882.

GLOBE 8/18/72
BILL SIGNED 10/9/72

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 16, 1972

COMMITTEE
RULES

222-2784

Ms. Amy Cohn
Cambridge Historical
Commission
57 Inman Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Ms. Cohn:

This is in response to your recent request asking the status of legislation to establish the Longfellow National Historic Site in Cambridge.

I am happy to inform you that this legislation passed the Senate on March 23, 1972, and was referred to the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. I am hopeful that the Committee will act during this session of Congress, but I am unable to specify when this action might occur. Once this legislation is passed by the House and signed by the President, the effect of the legislation takes place immediately. I trust you will find this information helpful.

With every good wish,

Sincerely,

Thomas P. O'Neill
Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Member of Congress

jg

RHN-

Longfellow
Apparently a fence was yellow with white posts after its dark period in Longfellow days and before its present dark color— see attached recollections of Mrs. Luther (born 1903) and Charles Eliot (born 1899).

I still agree with your conclusions.

RBR

P.S.— Mr. Wolfe sent your report to Edwin Small, who also agrees with you. Park Service is aiming for an 1882 date.

6/5/70

"Work is one of our Greatest Blessings:—Every one should have an Honest Occup. [sic] Job."

RINDGE MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL,

COR. BROADWAY AND IRVING STREET.

CHARLES H. MORSE,
Head Master.

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. June 19, 1890.

Dear Sir:-

Please find enclosed two tickets to our tenth annual "public day."

Knowing that you must soon decide which High School your son will attend next year, I enclose our course of study for your examination, and you will pardon me if I say that this school offers unusual advantages to boys contemplating attending the Institute of Technology or the Lawrence Scientific School. The general course will be made much more popular than heretofore by the introduction of a course in electricity in connection with the work in Laboratory Physics. The course in English is also particularly strong.

This school is now a separate high school, and all the academic work will be done in the Annex building connected with the main building, saving the marching to the English High School, which, in stormy weather, has been a serious objection.

Trusting that you will be able to come for an hour at least on

Wednesday morn, I remain,

Yours truly,

Chas H Morse
Head Master.

Union Street, general views

between Market and Hampshire Streets:



} looking north



} looking south

between Hampshire and Lincoln Streets:



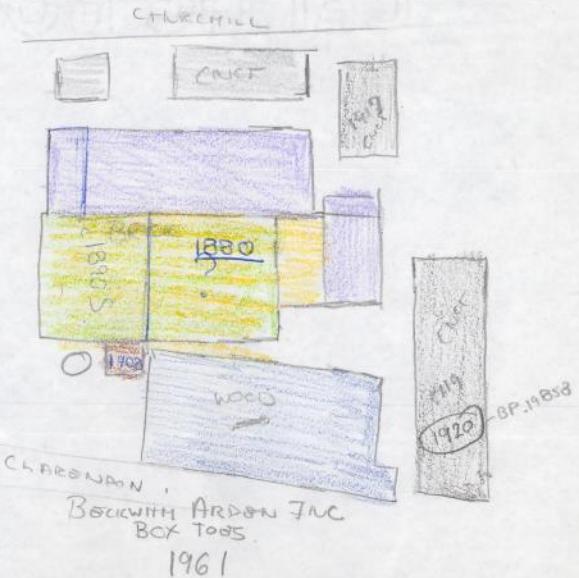
} looking north

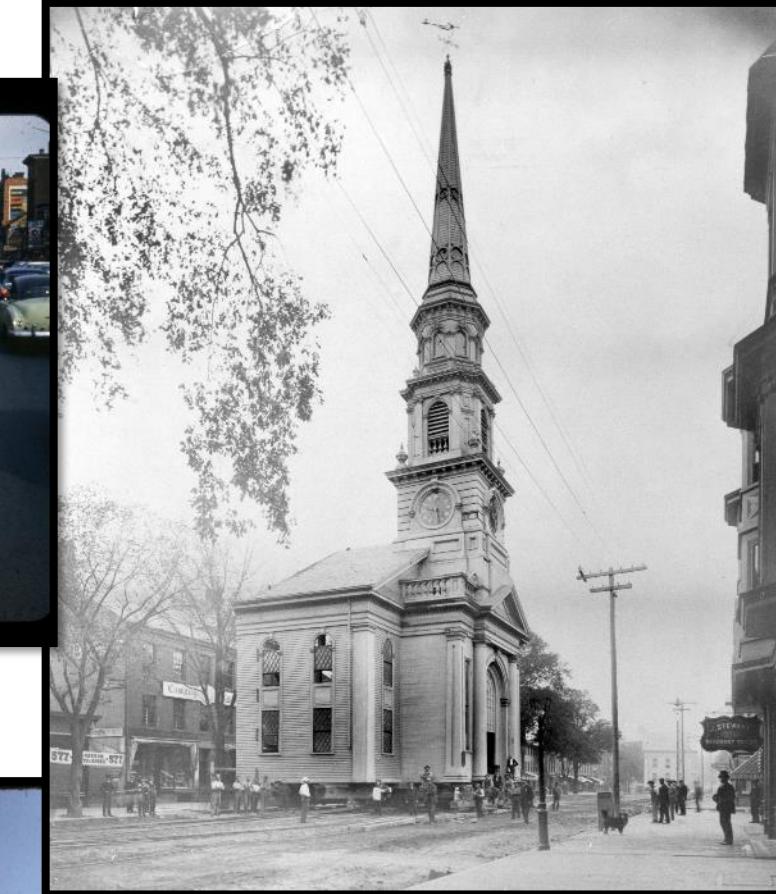
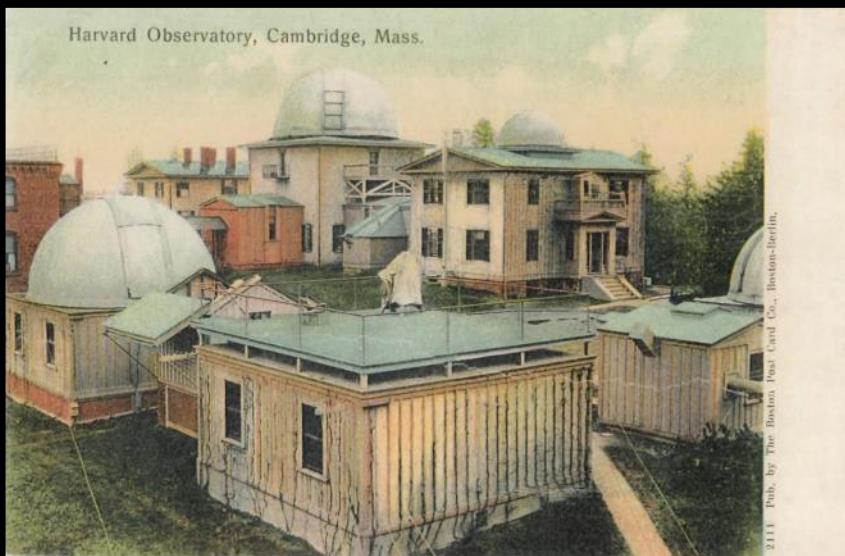
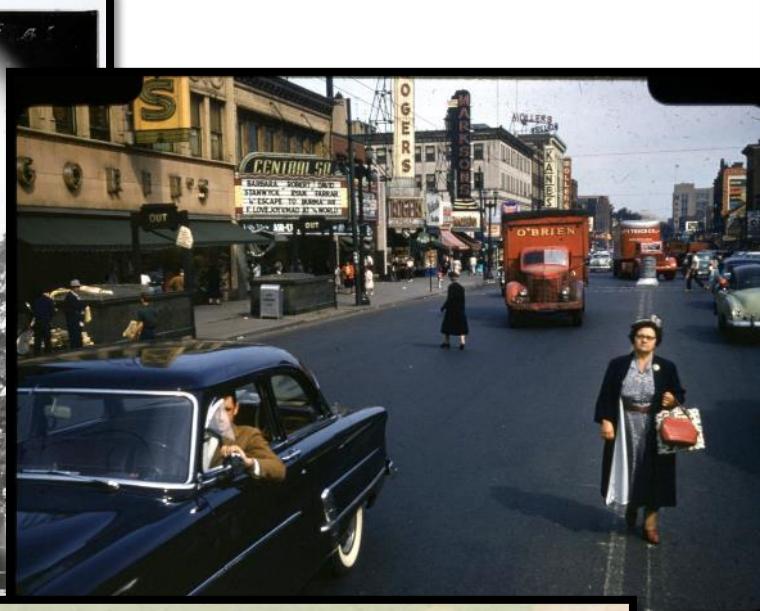


} looking south



35 Clarendon Ave.





Views – Exterior View

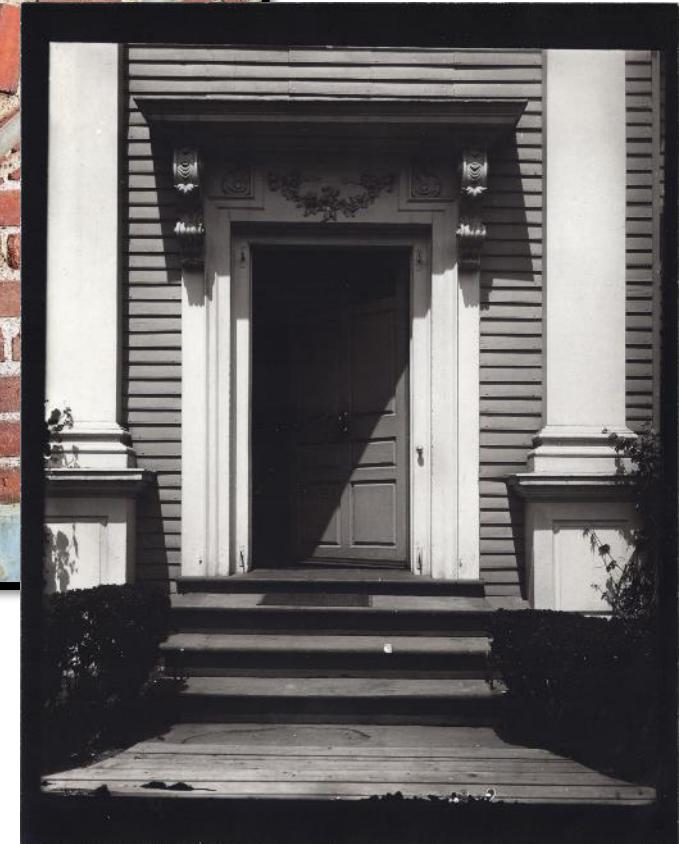


Views – Interior View

Mrs. Manning's Bedroom.
The original paper is on the walls.



Views – Detail View



Organization of the Physical Collection

The organization of the architectural survey as file folders was designed in the mid 1960s

It is inherently geographical with

- File drawers organized by district
- Folders colored by district
- Folders labeled by Address Range, Place Name, and Subject
- Each document labeled with specific address.



38 File drawers of documentation about Cambridge Buildings

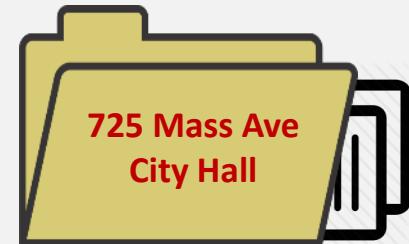
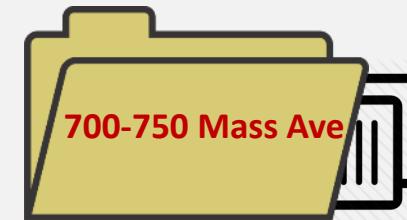
2000 Folders,
Ranges of buildings, Specific
named places / Subjects

18,000 Places
(Addresses or Named Places)

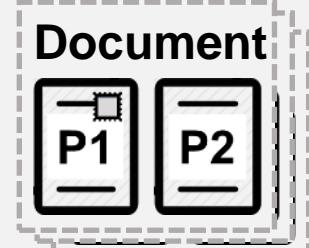
90,000 Distinct Documents

130,000 Pages

Digitization Step 1:
Prepare batches of folders for scanning.



Cover Sheet for Each folder
Order & Label Documents
Send to BosScans in Bunker Boxes



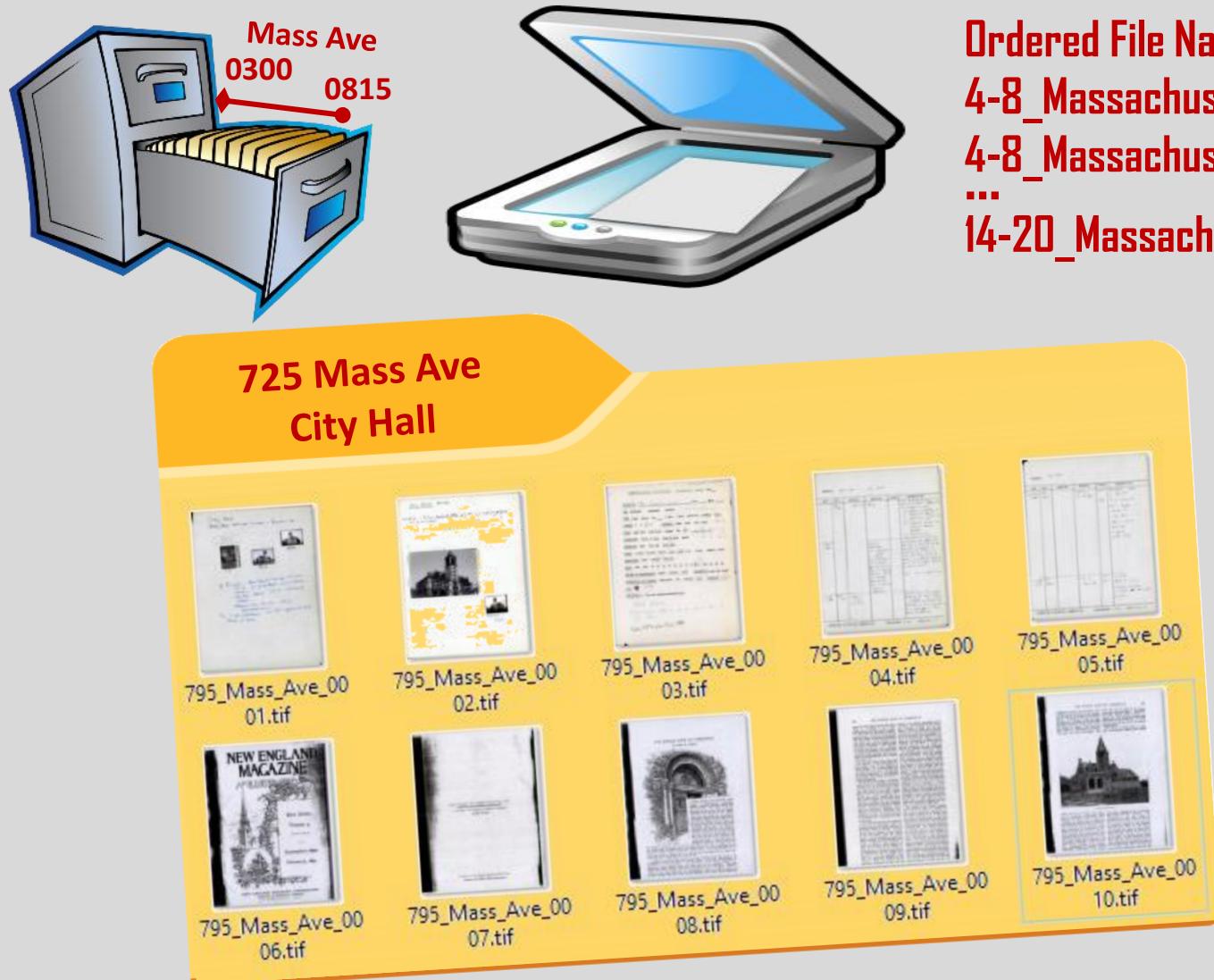
Scanning Workflow & Naming Scheme

After ordering the files.
Sequences of folders were packed
into bounding boxes to send to
BosScans for scanning

Filenames are constructed of
Address_Index.tif

There are a lot of other rules
about unconventional addresses.

BosScans did an excellent job
following our file-naming formula.



Ordered File Names:
4-8_Massachusetts_Ave_0001.tif
4-8_Massachusetts_Ave_0002.tif
...
14-20_Massachusetts_Ave_0003.tif

CDASH Document Type Codes

The digital collection system relies on titles, and tags to help users find information of interest.

We created a category scheme of document types that can be evaluated quickly by just looking at the previews tiles for files.

95 percent of all documents in the Building Files collection fit into one of these categories.

These categories allow us to set many useful keywords and generate meaningful default titles for each document upon our initial upload into the system.

Text Document Type Codes

- AI - Architectural Inventory Form**
- HS - Historic Building Survey**
- RF - Research Form**
- RN - Research Notes**
- CD - Correspondence**
- DB - Official Business**
- AM - Published Material**
- EP - Ephemera (Pamphlet, Program, Ads)**
- UC - Unclassified**

Image Document Type Codes

- PI - Interior View**
- PE - Exterior View**
- PB - Birds-Eye View**
- PV - Plan View**
- PD - Detail View**
- PC - Contact Sheet**

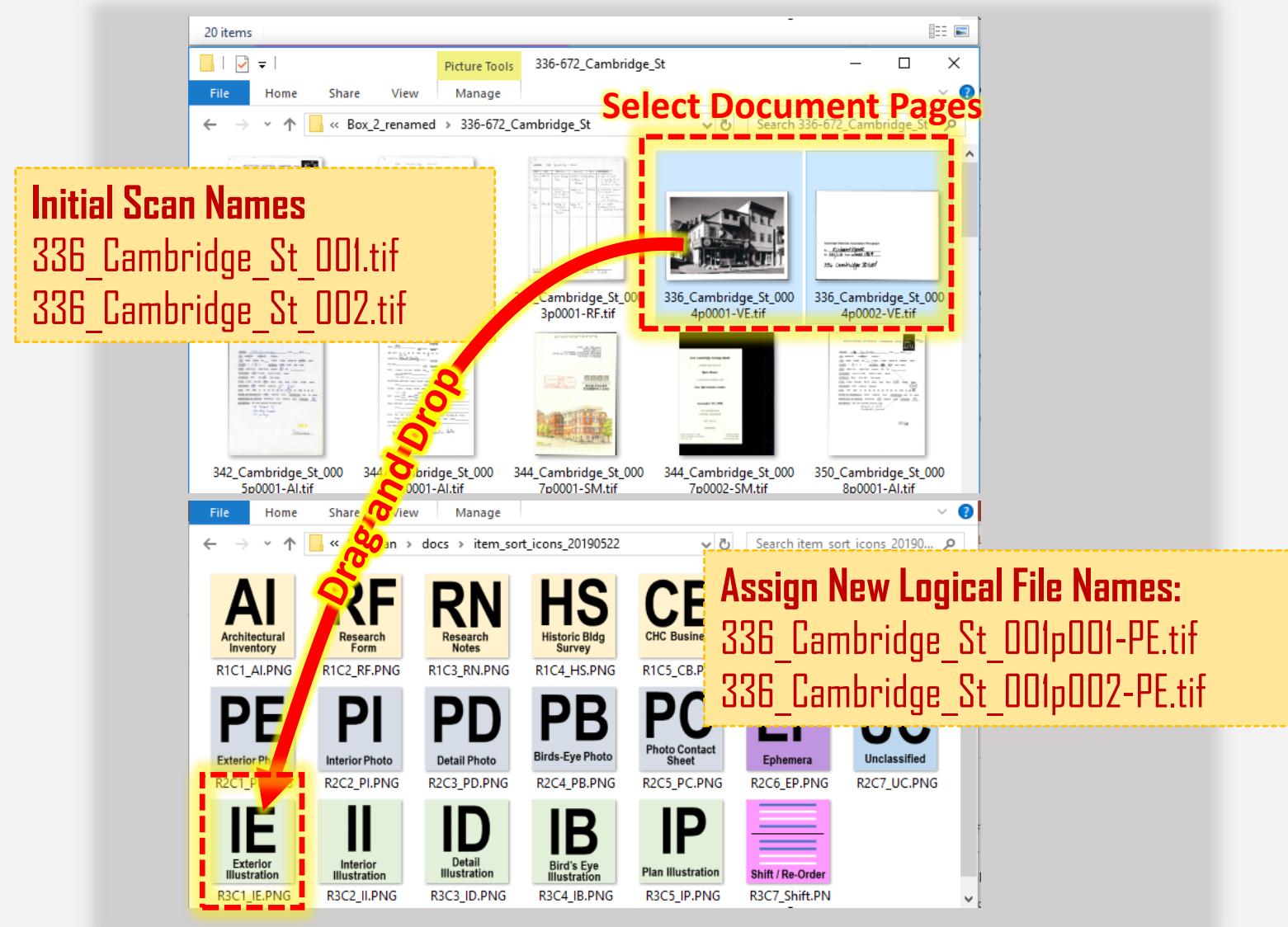
Itemization, Rough Sort and Application of Logical File Names

The rough sort and pagination is accomplished by a tool-kit we call the CDASH Itemizer.

The user browses a folder of scans in Windows Explorer. Large Thumbnails. Pages belonging to a document are selected, dragged and dropped onto the appropriate renaming tool.

- Street Name Spelling is validated or repaired based on our street listing.
- Media files are renamed, with codes that assign an Item Type, Item ID and Page Number.

These renamed files are now ready for geo-coding and application of automatically assigned titles and tags.



Hand-off to Paul

Translating the Physical Collection to Omeka-S



cultivating spatial intelligence®



Digesting Folders and Files

Batches of re-named image files in their folders are divided into batches having on average 35 folders and 3500 pages each. Each batch is processed with python crawler that validates the image files, and builds a manifest of the batch-collection. This process also generates titles and metadata based on Address – Place Name - Document Type.

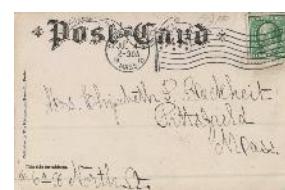
CDASH Schema / Ontology

- Folders
- Places (Addresses and Named)
- Documents
- Media

Four CSV tables preserve the hierachal relationships among the elements in each batch.



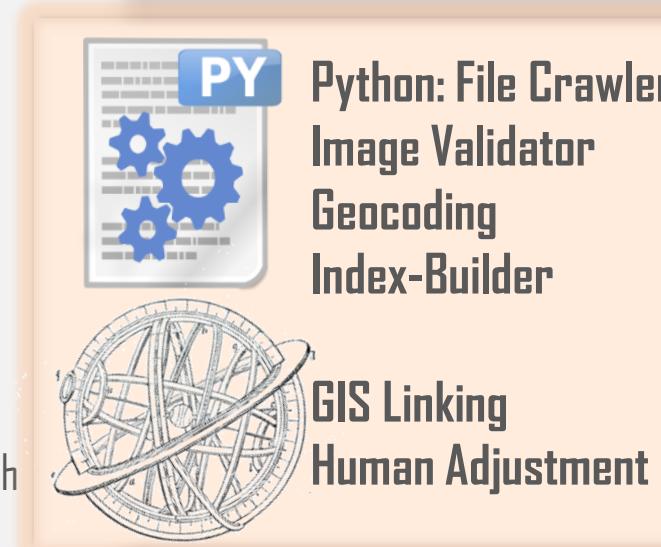
795_Mass_Ave_00
94p0001-VE.tif



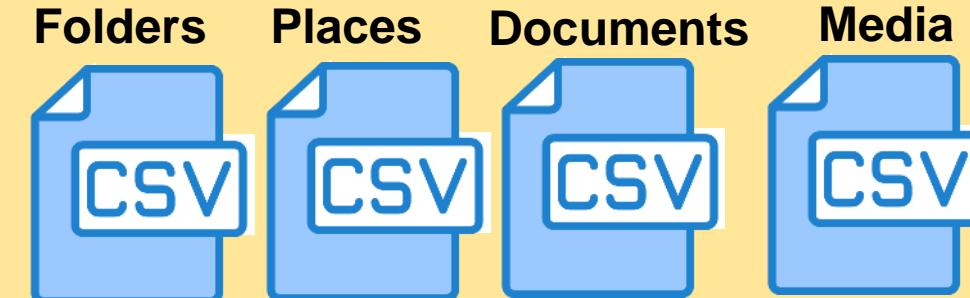
795_Mass_Ave_00
94p0002-VE.tif

Address Item Page Type

795_Massachusetts_Ave_0094p001-VE.tif
795_Massachusetts_Ave_0094p002-VE.tif



Collection Manifest (per batch)



Live CDASH Demonstration
visit

cdash.cambridgema.gov



CDASH Tools, Theme and Omeka Schema:

We created a **fork of the Omeka CSV Bulk Loader** that allows for repeated uploads of batches with our manifest files.

The CDASH Omeka schema creates a hierarchy of specialized Omeka entities

CDASH Omeka Schema

- Folders – Omeka Item Sets
- Places – Omeka Items (Place Template)
- Documents – Omeka Items (DocTemplate)

This Schema / Ontology preserves the organization and serendipitous discovery afforded by the physical file-system.
AND MORE!

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying an Omeka item page for "795 Massachusetts Ave - City Hall". The header features the Cambridge Historical Commission logo and the text "C-DASH: DIGITAL ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY AND HISTORY". The main content area includes a map showing the location of the building at 795 Massachusetts Ave, overlaid with various historical markers and survey areas. To the right of the map, detailed information about the place is listed under "Place Item":
Place Item : 795 Massachusetts Ave - City Hall
Neighborhood : Mid-Cambridge Hall
Place Type : Building
Research District : Mid-Cambridge
Place Name : City Hall
Place Use : Institutional
Folder:
795 Mass Ave City Hall
795 Mass Ave City Hall Tower Clock
795 Mass Ave Paint and Mortar Studies

Linked resources

- 795 Massachusetts Ave - City Hall - Architectural Inventory Form
- 795 Massachusetts Ave - City Hall - Contact Sheet
- 795 Massachusetts Ave - City Hall - Contact Sheet
- 795 Massachusetts Ave - City Hall - Contact Sheet
- 795 Massachusetts Ave - City Hall - Contact Sheet
- 795 Massachusetts Ave - City Hall - Correspondence
- 795 Massachusetts Ave - City Hall - Correspondence

1 of 13 < > 1-25 of 307
<< Drag to Expand / Shrink.

Powered by Omeka-S

Geographical Referencing: The Original Linked Data!

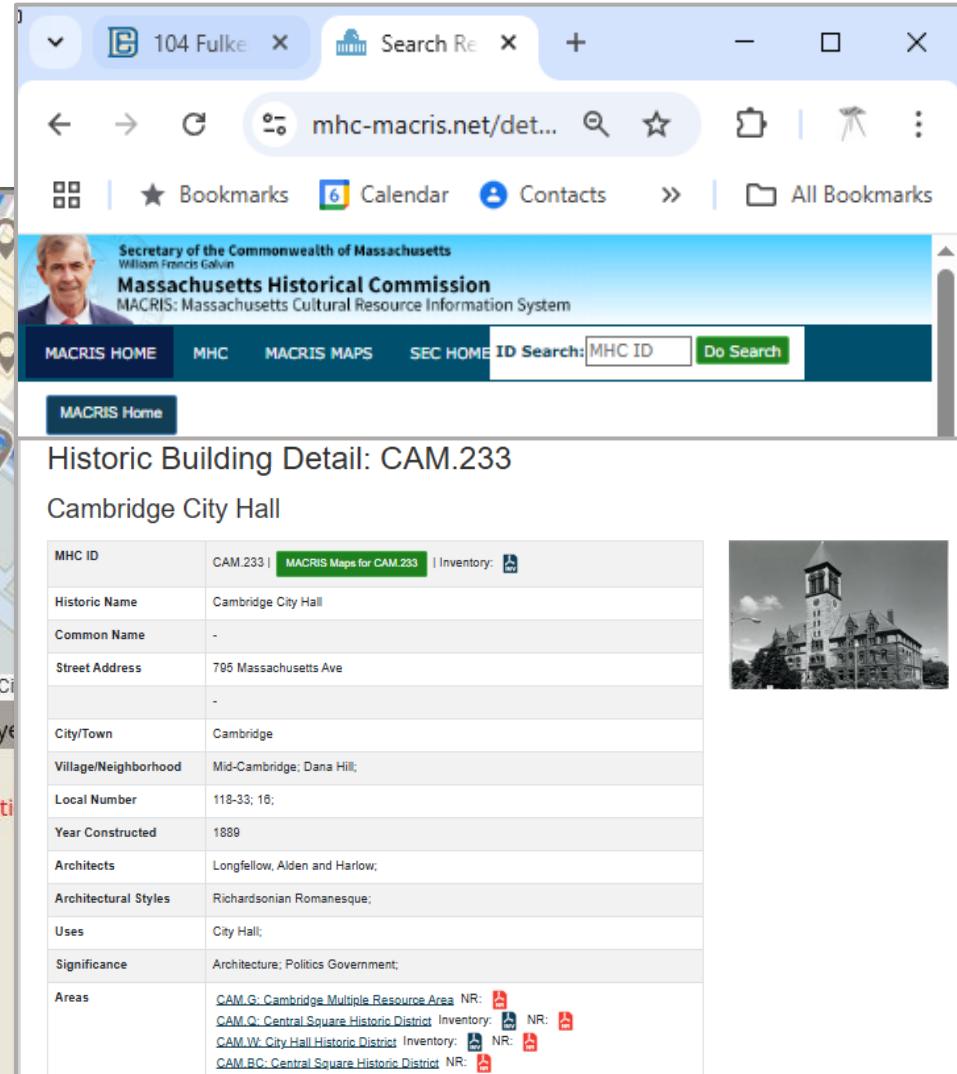
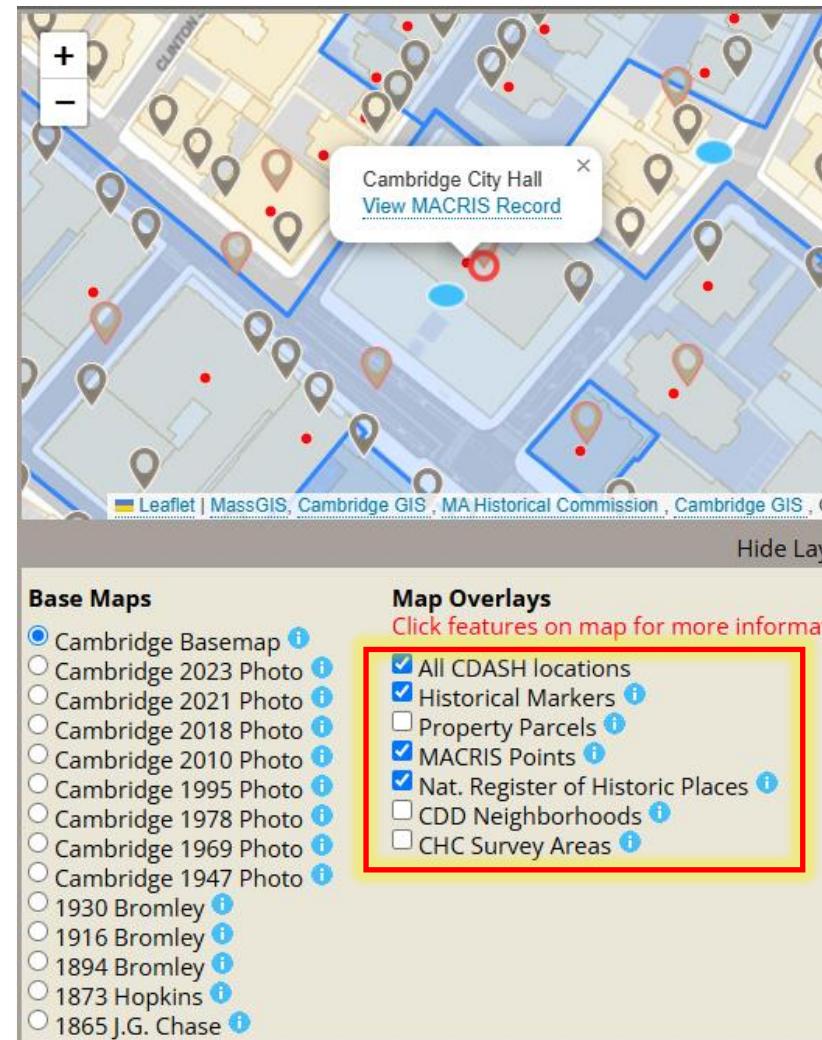
The standard Omeka-S Mapping Module allows for geolocating items.

The CDASH Theme adds a map window that employs Leaflet.js to display the location of all the **Place** items on the map.

The magic of geographical referencing and Web Feature Services allows us to add other geolocated data shared by other institutions. **It all registers automatically! For Free!**

Our CDASH locations are available as a geo-JSON service ready to be displayed on your map application.

Ask us how!



Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin
Massachusetts Historical Commission
MACRIS: Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

MACRIS HOME **MHC** **MACRIS MAPS** **SEC HOME** **ID Search:** MHC ID **Do Search**

MACRIS Home

Historic Building Detail: CAM.233

Cambridge City Hall

MHC ID	CAM.233 MACRIS Maps for CAM.233 Inventory: View
Historic Name	Cambridge City Hall
Common Name	-
Street Address	795 Massachusetts Ave
City/Town	Cambridge
Village/Neighborhood	Mid-Cambridge; Dana Hill;
Local Number	118-33; 16;
Year Constructed	1889
Architects	Longfellow, Alden and Harlow;
Architectural Styles	Richardsonian Romanesque;
Uses	City Hall;
Significance	Architecture; Politics Government;
Areas	CAM.G-Cambridge Multiple Resource Area NR: View CAM.C-Central Square Historic District Inventory: View NR: View CAM.W-City Hall Historic District Inventory: View NR: View CAM.BC-Central Square Historic District NR: View

Antique Maps – Historical Aerial Photos --- Filling in the Gaps between individual resources

Along with vector-based web feature services, there is an increasing number of antique maps and aerial photos that have been precisely georeferenced and shared by local institutions as raster Web Map Services.

Cartographic display of georeferenced data creates new information by associating and filling in the gaps between formerly independent observations!

Geographical Referencing is the coolest and most powerful form of linked data. People have been linking data this way for 2200 years! Hats off to Hipparchus of Rhodes! (190-120 BC)

The screenshot illustrates the integration of historical maps and photographs through a georeferencing interface.

Left Panel: Map View

A historical map of Cambridge, Massachusetts, showing areas like JOHN J. AHERN FIELD, THORNDIKE SCHOOL, and various neighborhoods. A red annotation at the top left reads: "These buildings don't exist any more". A red double-headed arrow highlights a specific location on the map.

Bottom Left: Base Maps

- Cambridge Basemap
- Cambridge 2023 Photo
- Cambridge 2021 Photo
- Cambridge 2018 Photo
- Cambridge 2010 Photo
- Cambridge 1995 Photo
- Cambridge 1978 Photo
- Cambridge 1969 Photo
- Cambridge 1947 Photo
- 1930 Bromley** (selected, highlighted with a red border)
- 1916 Bromley
- 1894 Bromley
- 1873 Hopkins
- 1865 J.G. Chase

Bottom Right: Map Overlays

- All CDASH locations
- Historical Markers
- Property Parcels
- MACRIS Points
- Nat. Register of Historic Places
- CDD Neighborhoods
- CHG Survey Areas

Top Right: Document Details

104 Fulkerson St - Ahern Field - Exterior View

Document Type : Exterior View
Pages : 2
Rights : Rights status not evaluated.
Place Item : 104 Fulkerson St - Ahern Field
Folder: Thorndike Ahern Field

Neighborhood : East Cambridge
Research District : East Cambridge
Citation : Cambridge Historical Commission, Digital Architectural Survey and History.

Right Panel: Photograph

A historical black and white photograph of a large, multi-story building, identified as 104 Fulkerson St - Ahern Field. A red annotation at the top right reads: "These buildings don't exist any more". A red double-headed arrow highlights the building in the photo, corresponding to the one shown on the map.

Lets Geo-Temporally Reference Everything we Can!

The Cambridge Historical Commission and pbcGIS

have spent many years extending Omeka with:

- Python file digestion and geocoding tools
- Custom Bulk Loader
- Resource Templates & Vocabularies
- Omeka Theme with Map Window
- Integrating external map services
- Docker resources for setting up a development and production instance
- An architecture for hosting all of this in the Microsoft Azure Cloud
- An enterprise level stewardship and governance model
- Documentation.

Far from perfect, and involves a few hacks. But it would be a great starting place for others – and we would love to be a part of an extended the geo-humanities community!!

To Do:

- Finish digesting & uploading
- Make it work on small screens with mobile GPS
- AI - based file sorting and document grouping??

For You:

- CDASH is LIVE Check it OUT!
- @ cdash.cambridgema.gov
- Download CDASH Tools and Theme
@ github.com\c-dash
- [Visit our documentation:](#)
and get this slideshow!

Get in Touch!

- Talk to us at the poster session!
- Meta: mpartenheimer@cambridgema.gov
- Paul: paulbcote@gmail.com



Bonus Slide! Omeka in Azure Cloud (detail)

