

(Landmark)
9 Wyman Rd



CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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URL: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/historic>



Chandra Harrington, *Chair*; Elizabeth Lyster, *Vice Chair*; Charles Sullivan, *Executive Director*
Joseph V. Ferrara, Gavin W. Kleespies, Paula A. Paris, Kyle Sheffield, Yuting Zhang, *Members*
Florrie Darwin, Scott Kyle, Michael Rogove, *Alternates*

Date: 4/13/2026
To: Tanya L. Ford-Crump, Executive Director
Election Commission
From: Charles M. Sullivan, Executive Director
Cambridge Historical Commission
Re: Request for Verification of Registered Voters

As required by Chapter 2.78.180 of the Code of the City of Cambridge, the Historical Commission requests that the names on the attached petition be verified as being registered voters of the City of Cambridge. THIRTY NAMES NEED TO BE VERIFIED TO VALIDATE THE PETITION.

Please sign and return to the Historical Commission via interoffice mail.

Signatures checked by *Sally Way* Date 4/16/26

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CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
ELECTION COMMISSION

Petition for Designation Study of a Landmark or Neighborhood Conservation District

We, the undersigned registered voters of the City of Cambridge, request the Cambridge Historical Commission to initiate the process of designating the building or neighborhood named below, bounded by or containing properties located on the named streets, as a Landmark or Neighborhood Conservation District under Chapter 2.78, Article III of the Code of the City of Cambridge.

Address if a single property, or boundaries if a district: 9 Wyman Rd as Historical Landmark

Significance of the proposed landmark or district: _____

See Attached Document

Historical Landmark Application for 9 Wyman Road

Wyman Road came into existence in the 1920s, with the splitting of what now remains of Sparks Street (an 1877 Italianate) into several smaller individual lots during a period of economic boom prior to the Great Depression. Architects W.M. DuGuid and G.R. Martin conceived of the houses in 1926—and built them in 1929—as a deliberate response to what was seen at the time as the overstated and extravagant display of wealth of the Avon Hill and Brattle Street mansions. DuGuid and Martin designed the houses of Wyman Road not as individual artifacts, but as a cohesive, pre-planned micro-community to collectively showcase the most valued architectural styles of the period, including craftsman, brick colonial revival, and wood colonial revival.

One house on the street, however, is truly distinct for its unusual and unique blending of styles not seen elsewhere in Cambridge: 9 Wyman Road. Storybook architecture was inspired by old-world rural European architecture, an aesthetic which was transported back to America in the interwar period. It took root in Los Angeles in particular, and came to be seen in America as an aspirational style that evoked the glamor and optimism of Hollywood. Known for steeply pitched cross-gable roofs, asymmetry, elaborate brickwork chimneys, and earthen materials (such as stone and stucco), they were often placed in enchanted moss-covered environmental settings shaded by old trees to amplify their otherworldly feel. The structure of 9 Wyman Rd also specifically mimics storybook cottage home, with its 90-degree angle that serves as end point of Wyman Rd and creates a warmer microclimate in the front yard, while its lower ground floor (so beloved in Britain) opens up to the cooler back garden facing Huron avenue.

Noteworthy, 9 Wyman breaks from storybook architecture in its choice of materials. Instead of brick, stucco or stone, it uses wood shingles, harkening to the shingled and Queen Anne styles seen in Cambridge between 1880-1900. Thus 9 Wyman represents an experimental hybridization of style and materials that synthesized 1920s Hollywood chic with the shingled home so iconic of New England.

9 Wyman has a significant amount of green space that has been preserved for 100 years. Approaching the lot from Wyman Road, a visitor is confronted with the lot's historic trees that shade the entirety of the lot, giving a sense of 9 Wyman being nestled deep in a forest even as the house abuts the busy Huron Avenue. This attention to placement of the home deep within the

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landscape for overall environmental effect is not something that the architects did for any other homes on Wyman.

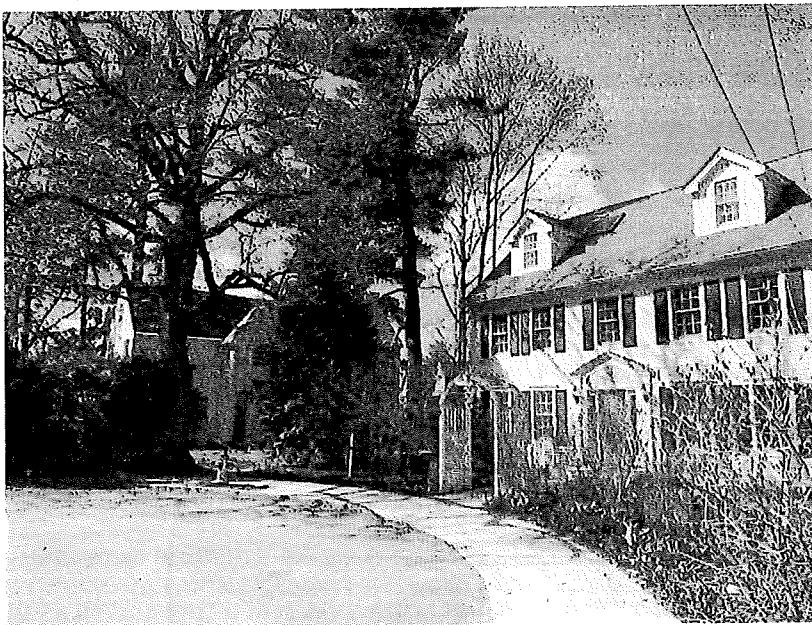
Therefore, the petitioners ask the Cambridge Historic Commission to preserve 9 Wyman Road and its historic trees as an utterly unique example of a style that is seen nowhere else in Cambridge.

Liza (Elizabeth) Oliver, PhD
Associate Professor of Art History
Chair of Art Department, Wellesley College
Cambridge Resident
[REDACTED]

Alice Friedman, PhD
Emerita Grace Slack McNeil Professor of American Architecture
Wellesley College
Cambridge Resident
[REDACTED]

Kathryn O'Rourke, PhD
Grace Slack McNeil Professor of American Architecture
Wellesley College
[REDACTED]

Photographs:



9 Wyman shown at left nestled behind trees from Wyman Road



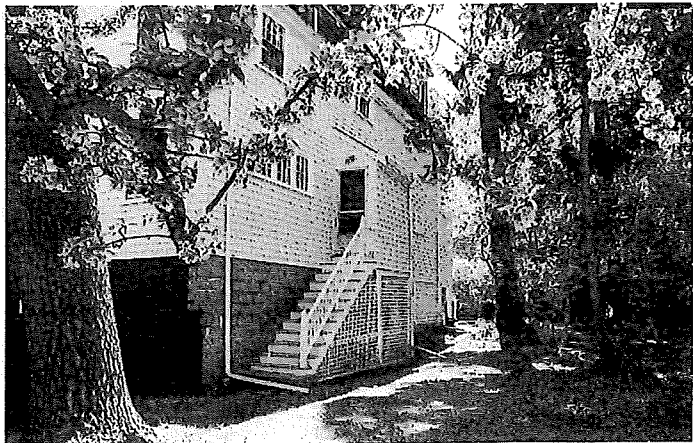
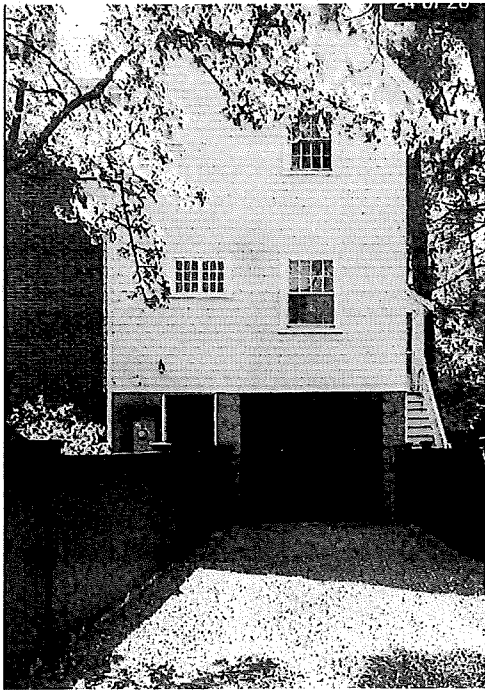
Diagonal orientation of 9 Wyman from Wyman Road to emphasize asymmetry in keeping with the storybook aesthetic



Front door from Wyman entrance, with exaggerated cottage aesthetic.



9 Wyman shown from Huron Avenue, with lower ground floor opening up to the cooler back garden



9 Wyman shown from Huron Avenue, with lower ground floor opening up to the cooler back garden