

Neighborhood Ten Association Collection
1963-1985

Donated to
The Cambridge Historical Commission
In 2004
By
Thomas Anninger, President
The Neighborhood Ten Association
1980-1984

Compiled by
H. Alice Dodds
October, 2005-March, 2006

3.6 linear feet

The Cambridge Historical Commission
Of the
City of Cambridge
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Description

The Neighborhood Ten Association Collection was donated to the Cambridge Historical Commission by Thomas W. Anninger, a resident of the neighborhood at 26 Healey Street since 1967. Mr. Anninger served as President of the Neighborhood Ten Association from 1980-1984. The collection represents the papers he acquired during his tenure in office, as well as background materials given him by his predecessors. The earliest document dates to 1963, the latest to 1985. However, the materials fall predominantly within the years 1980-1984.

Neighborhood Ten is one of fourteen Cambridge neighborhoods, so designated by the City of Cambridge for planning and administrative purposes. It comprises the area enclosed by J.F. Kennedy Street (formerly Boylston Street)-Massachusetts Avenue, Concord Avenue, Memorial Drive, and Mt. Auburn Street-Watertown Branch Railroad-Coolidge Avenue-Fresh Pond. It is one of the city's most significant neighborhoods as it includes much of Harvard Square, parts of Harvard University (and formerly Radcliffe College), historic churches, Mt. Auburn Hospital, The Longfellow National Historic Site, Episcopal Divinity School, Mt. Auburn Cemetery, the Loeb Theatre, and one of the wealthiest residential communities in the country.

The years of Mr. Anninger's presidency were a critical time for Neighborhood Ten. The early 1980s saw strong pressures for economic growth in Harvard Square. Developers sought to erect office towers, bring in arcades of video games, and increase the number of liquor licenses. The Neighborhood Ten Association, on the other hand, represented the traditional values of Harvard Square and looked to preserve the Square's values as an educational, cultural and historic center, as well as a thriving business community. The battle lines were drawn. The neighborhood organized and fought. This collection details the tactics, influences and pressures, presentations to Cambridge City and Massachusetts State boards, and extensive litigation engaged in to achieve the ends considered desirable by the community.

In a city with as strong an organizational bent as Cambridge, it is not surprising to find recorded here the intersection of innumerable groups and organizations with the Neighborhood Ten Association. Most of these groups make a brief bow and exit without substantive interaction. The major exception is the Harvard Square Defense Fund, incorporated in 1979, which was closely allied with the Neighborhood Ten Association, sharing leaders, and fighting the same battles shoulder to shoulder. Some of the Defense Fund's legendary figures, such as Dean Johnson, Martha Lawrence and Gladys (Pebble) Gifford, exerted a powerful influence and gave cause for many a second thought by the most intrepid developers.

In the early 1980s, Harvard University and other Harvard Square real estate developers began to heed and respond to the needs and desires of the community. An era of negotiations, backed by pressure, came into being. Mr. Anninger became a leader in these negotiations and shared mightily in bringing a number of significant issues and projects to successful conclusion. Among these were the sycamore trees on Memorial Drive and the Cambridge Electric Light Company, video games and the Dream Machine Company, and the two major real estate developments of the day: Parcel 1B and University Place.

Finally, it should be noted that the Neighborhood Ten Association Collection records work in progress. Many of the subjects covered, such as Parcel 1B and University Place, tell their histories from start to finish. Many others stand as fragments. Thus the integrity and usefulness of the collection, as a history of Neighborhood Ten during a critical period in its development, not only derive from the fullness of its own materials, but as directional pointers to areas of possible further exploration.

Scope and Content

Series One -- Building Issues (See also Zoning Issues)

While this series considers a few zoning issues, these issues are subsidiary to larger questions of planning, renovation, development and construction. Thirteen sites are included in this series, the earliest being the rehabilitation of Roosevelt Towers (1980-1981), and the latest the planning for a new building for Cherry, Webb & Touraine and Northeast Federal Savings Bank (October, 1984). Mt. Auburn Hospital was the most contentious of the building issues. The neighborhood was roused in 1983-1984 by the Hospital's large scale building and renovation plans to set up the Mt. Auburn Neighborhood Association (MANA). This group worked to try to assure that the Hospital's expansion efforts were not detrimental to the best interests of the community.

Series Two -- Cambridge, City of

Mr. Anninger collected a miscellany of Cambridge City Government documents on such subjects as block grants, budget, City Council, crime, neighborhoods, organizations, public schools and taxation. However, the real meat of this series, as regards the work of the Neighborhood Ten Association, is found in three folders: The Harvard Square Overlay District (1981-1984); The Harvard Square Policy Plan (1976, 1984) and; Institutional Growth and Development (CDD) (1980-1981). These records were essential policy statements and guidelines that helped to shape the Neighborhood Ten Association's efforts to preserve and create a desirable and acceptable community. The folder on the Cambridge Historical Commission should be used in conjunction with files in Series One (Building Issues) and Series Nine (Zoning Issues).

Series Three -- Harvard Square

Discrete materials pertaining to Harvard Square alone are few but merit separate consideration. The records on two organizations concerned with Harvard Square are usually included with the subject matter they were considering at the moment. They are here listed individually in recognition of their unique influence: The Harvard Square Business Association and the Harvard Square Defense Fund. The other materials included in this series are two files of records descriptive of Harvard Square: clippings and a defining statement on the Square.

Series Four -- Harvard University (See also Building Issues and Parcel 1B)

Materials regarding Harvard University can also be found in other series, as noted above. The records here take in a miscellany of documents on the JFK School of Government and the Loeb Theatre. However, the bulk of this series concerns Craigie Arms, the Gerry and Revere Street properties and University Place. Gerry and Revere Streets properties were bought by Harvard from Louis DiGiovanni and became the site on which University Place was built.

Series Five – Infrastructure

The seventeen folders in this series reveal the Neighborhood Ten Association's influence on the Cambridge infrastructure. This influence ranged from debating the large issues, e.g. Cambridge Electric Light Company (1983-1984) and the J.F. Kennedy Park (1983-1984), to small issues such as the MBTA bike racks (1982-1983), chain link fencing at Mt. Auburn Cemetery (1981), street signs (1981,1983), sodium lights (1982), and plantings (1981).

Series Six – Automatic Machines and Liquor

The Neighborhood Ten Association was an active voice in curbing troublesome bars and restaurants, including Georgie 'N Co. and Ruggles. The Association also spoke up in general against the proliferation of liquor licenses in Harvard Square. It appealed to the city to set up a License Commission and to formulate policies and procedures for liquor licensing (City of Cambridge, Policies and Procedures, 1982-1983).

Series Seven -- Neighborhood Ten Association

This series includes the Neighborhood Ten Association's housekeeping records as well as materials descriptive of the activities being undertaken by the group. Represented in the former category are financial records, lists of officers and members, and materials related to cooperative efforts with other groups and organizations. The latter category includes minutes of executive committee meetings and general meetings, clippings, correspondence and a fine collection of newsletters spanning the years 1972-1983. A folder of Mr. Anninger's handwritten notes (1980,1981,1983 and undated) is also included.

Series Eight -- Parcel 1B

Parcel 1B is the most extensive single series in this collection, comprising 23 folders and spanning the years 1963 to 1985. The highly desirable location of the site, the former MBTA car barns on JF Kennedy Street (formerly Boylston Street) and Memorial Drive, and the prestigious purposes planned for it, including a memorial park in the name of J. F. Kennedy, brought into the lengthy planning stage a wide variety of power centers. These included the Massachusetts State Legislature, the Environmental Affairs Board, the City of Cambridge, the Massachusetts Superior Court, Harvard University, developers, The Harvard Square Defense Fund, and the Neighborhood Ten Association. Neighborhood Ten played a definitive role, much of it in the late 1970s, prior to Mr. Anninger's presidency, and took up legal cudgels to shape the future of Parcel 1B to its liking. So powerful was the Neighborhood Ten Association's influence that the final "Agreement" (1980) regarding the Parcel's development called for the signatures of several residents, including Mr. Anninger, as "participants."

Series Nine – Zoning Issues (See also Building Issues, Harvard University, Infrastructure, Parcel 1B)

This series on zoning issues briefly concerns a number of subjects, such as accessory apartment, inclusionary zoning, Lesley College, parking, and store front signs. Two large questions were related to Dream Machine and St. Peter's Church. The Dream Machine Company petitioned the Cambridge City Zoning Board for a permit for 60 video games. This permit was granted, was fought by the Neighborhood Ten Association, and was finally rescinded. The zoning issue at St. Peter's Church related to parking. The neighborhood was opposed to the flood of cars to be brought into a residential area if St. Peter's were to convert its building to offices; an Agreement was reached in 1985.

Folder List

Series One -- Building Issues

Box 1

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Armenian Church | 1984 |
| 2. Cherry, Webb & Touraine | 1984 |
| 3. Concord at Parker/Concord at Healey | undated |
| 4. Grendel's Den | 1980 |
| 5. Mt. Auburn Hospital | 3/23/83-8/31/83 |
| 6. Mt. Auburn Hospital | 9/1/83-10/24/83 |
| 7. Mt. Auburn Hospital | 11/2/83-12/2/83 |
| 8. Mt. Auburn Hospital | 1/13/84-9/13/84 |
| 9. 102-106 Mt. Auburn Street
2-4-6 Eliot Street | 1982-1983 |
| 10. 134 Mt. Auburn Street
34 Mt. Auburn Place | 1981 |
| 11. Roosevelt Towers | 1980 |
| 12. Swiss Alps Restaurant | 1984 |
| 13. 1280 Massachusetts Avenue | 1982-1983 |

Series Two -- Cambridge, City of

Box 1 (continued)

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 14. Block Grants | 1982-1983 |
| 15. Budget | 1980 |
| 16. Cambridge Historical Commission
(See also Building Issues, Zoning Issues) | 1981-1982 |
| 17. City Council | 1983 |
| 18. Crime | 1981, 1983, 1984 |
| 19. Harvard Square Overlay District | 1981-1984 |

Series Two -- Cambridge, City of (continued)

Box 2

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 20. Harvard Square Policy Plan | 1976, 1984 |
| 21. Institutional Growth and Development (CDD) | 1980-1981 |
| 22. Neighborhoods | 1966, 1978, 1980
Undated |
| 23. Organizations | 1981, 1984 |
| 24. Public Schools | 1979, 1982, undated |
| 25. Taxation -- Proposition 2 ½ | 1981, 1982 |

Series Three -- Harvard Square

Box 2 (continued)

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 26. Clippings and Fliers | 1981, 1983, 1984 |
| 27. Harvard Square Business Association | 1984 |

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 28. Harvard Square Defense Fund | 1981, undated |
| 29. Statements on | 1972 |

Series Four -- Harvard University

Box 2 (continued)

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 30. Craigie Arms | 1983-1984 |
| 31. 31 Gerry Street and Revere Streets | 1982 |
| 32. John F. Kennedy School of Government | 1981 |
| 33. Loeb Theatre | 1982 |
| 34. University Place | 1980 |
| 35. University Place | 1981 |
| 36. University Place | 1982 |
| 37. University Place | 1983 |
| 38. University Place | 1984 |
| 39. University Place – Anninger Notes | 1980-1981 |
| 40. University Place – Clippings | 1981-1984 |
| 41. University Place - Photographs | undated |

Series Five -- Infrastructure

Box 3

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 42. Cambridge Electric Light Company | 1/11/83-8/26/83 |
| 43. Cambridge Electric Light Company | 9/5/83-9/20/83 |
| 44. Cambridge Electric Light Company | 10/3/83-12/6/83 |
| 45. Cambridge Electric Light Company | 11/5/84-3/20/84 |
| 46. Cambridge Electric Light Company | 4/10/84-7/3/84 |
| 47. Curb Cuts | 1982, 1983 |
| 48. Kennedy, John F. Park | 1983-1984 |
| 49. Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority | 1981-1983 |
| 50. Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority – Alewife | 1981, 1984 |
| 51. Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority – Bike Racks | 1982-1983 |
| 52. Memorial Drive | 1980-1981 |
| 53. Memorial Drive | 1982-1984 |
| 54. Planting | 1981 |
| 55. Street Lights – Sodium | 1982 |
| 56. Street Signs | 1981, 1983 |
| 57. Mt. Auburn Cemetery | 1981 |
| 58. Riverbend Park | 1980-1982 |

Series Six – Licensing, Automatic Machines and Liquor

Box 3 (continued)

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 59. City of Cambridge Policies and Procedures | 1982-1983 |
| 60. Georgie 'N Co. | 1983 |
| 61. Individual Petitions | 1980, 1982-1983 |
| 62. Ruggles Restaurant | 1982, 1983 |

Series Seven --Neighborhood Ten Association

Box 4

63. Anninger Notes	1980, 1981, 1983
64. Clippings	Undated
65. Correspondence	1980-1984
66. Financial	1980-1984
67. Groups and Organizations	1980-1983
68. Maps	undated
69. Meetings	1980
70. Meetings	1981
71. Meetings	1982
72. Meetings	1983
73. Meetings	1984
74. Members and Officers	1980-1984
75. Newsletters	1972-1983
76. Newsletter Mailings	1980, undated
77. Profile	1975
78. Progress Reports	1980, undated

Series Eight -- Parcel 1B

Box 4 (continued)

79. Agreement – KSA Associates and “Participants”	1980
80. Agreement – KSA Associates and “Participants,”	
81. Agreement – KSA Associates and “Participants,” Drafts	1980

Series Eight -- Parcel 1B (continued)

Box 5

82. Anninger Notes	1980, undated
83. Bennett Street Yards	1963
84. Charles Hotel	1984-1985
85. Clippings	
86. Correspondence	1978-1984
87. Curb Cuts, Grading and Roads	1983
88. Environmental Review	1978, 1979, 1981
89. Legislation – Bill #H 5268	1981
90. Legislation – Bill #5864	1980
91. Legislative Act, Chapter 298 – JFK Park	1976
92. Meetings – Neighborhood Ten	1979, 1980, 1981, 1984
93. Planning Board – PUD	1978, 1979
94. Planning Board - PUD Amendment	1983
95. Planning Board- PUD Proposal and Decision	1981
96. Project Redesign	1980
97. Project Review Board – Carbarn Company	1978
98. Project Review Board – Technical Report	1978

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 99. Project Review Board – Technical Report Debate | 1978 |
| 100. Statutory Guidelines | 1978 |
| 101. Superior Court Case (79-433) Decision | January 16, 1980 |

Series Nine -- Zoning Issues

Box 6

- | | |
|--|------------|
| 102. Accessory Apartment | 1980-1981 |
| 103. Dream Machine | 1982 |
| 104. Dream Machine | 1983 |
| 105. Dream Machine Clippings | |
| 106. Dream Machine, Inc. | 1982 |
| 107. Hearings and Amendments | 1980-1983 |
| 108. Inclusionary Zoning | 1983 |
| 109. Lesley College | 1984 |
| 110. Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Issues | 1980 |
| 111. Parking | 1981, 1984 |
| 112. 159 Mt. Auburn Street | 1983 |

Box 7

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 113. St. Peter's Church | 1982 |
| 114. St. Peter's Church | 1983 |
| 115. St. Peter's Church | 1984 |
| 116. St. Peter's Church | 1985 |
| 117. St. Peter's Church , Briefs – Middlesex County
Appeals Court | 1985 |
| 118. St. Peter's Church, Dismissal | undated |
| 119. St. Peter's Church, Agreement | April, 1985 |
| 120. St. Peter's Church, Lease | undated |
| 121. St. Peter's Church – Anninger Notes | 1982-1983 |
| 122. St. Peter's Church – Clippings | |
| 123. Signs | 1981-1984 |

Return to CHC Collections home:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/researchaids/archivalcollections>