

The Thomas Anninger Collection

**Donated to the
Cambridge Historical Commission
by Thomas Anninger
2006**

10 inches

Prepared by
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February, 2007

Cambridge Historical Commission
831 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Description

The Thomas Anninger Collection was donated to the Cambridge Historical Commission by Mr. Anninger in 2006. A resident of 26 Healey Street in Cambridge since 1967, and an attorney in Boston for many years, Mr. Anninger gave generously of his time, expertise, and wisdom to the Cambridge community.

While this collection includes background papers dated as early as 1931, it is primarily focused on the years 1984-1989. These years followed Mr. Anninger's term of service, 1980-1984, as President of the Cambridge Neighborhood Ten Association; as documented in the Neighborhood Ten Association Collection, also donated to the Cambridge Historical Commission by Mr. Anninger.

Taken together, these two collections span Mr. Anninger's work for the community in two separate contexts: first, in the context of a Cambridge neighborhood group and second, outside the neighborhood group as a member of various other community organizations. Both contexts cover city preservation issues, do not duplicate each other on specific subject matters, and should be reviewed together in order to obtain a full account of Mr. Anninger's endeavors.

The primary focus of the Thomas Anninger Collection is the community's felt need to preserve the integrity of the historic Harvard Square area. While a number of organizations are included in the collection as contributing to this goal, the pivotal group with which Mr. Anninger worked closely was the Harvard Square Defense Fund; of which he was a Board Member and for a short time Vice- President.

Materials on the work of the Harvard Square Defense Fund can be found throughout the collection. While there is a separate series, Series IV, devoted solely to this group, its influence and reach can be seen elsewhere in the collection, as for example in the positions the group took on individual development sites, or on the Harvard Square Overlay District Regulations, or in the newspaper articles describing the issues and personalities of the day.

Compared to the unusually momentous preservation issues covered in the Neighborhood Ten Collection, this Collection records important contributions to a range of matters, perhaps of less dramatic impact on but of no less significance to, the welfare of the Harvard Square area. The Thomas Anninger Collection does indeed give valuable insight into dedicated community activism centered on preserving the integrity of a precious historical environment.

Scope and Content,

Series I – Cambridge, City of

The materials in this series touch only briefly on the activities undertaken by the City of Cambridge in the field of preservation. More complete information about the City's work in this area can be found under other series heading, most notably Series VI – Overlay District, Harvard Square, and Series VII -- Sites

Series II – Clippings

The clippings found here are of general interest regarding the Harvard Square area. The few articles regarding individual sites are filed in the respective site folders.

Series III – Fresh Pond Reservation

This series documents Mr. Anninger's long-standing interest in and support of the upkeep and use of the Fresh Pond Reservation. Also recorded here are Mr. Anninger's efforts on behalf of the Cambridge Sports Union, and the group's desire to make use of the Fresh Pond facilities.

Series IV – Harvard Square Defense Fund

One of the most significant series in the Anninger Collection, these materials give detailed information, covering the years 1984-1988, on the workings of a highly influential group concerned with the preservation of the Harvard Square area, the Harvard Square Defense Fund. Of particular interest are the minute of the meeting held during the years 1986, 1987, 1988, which record the group's deliberations regarding sites being developed and preservation issues at stake. The series can be most usefully understood when studied in combination with Series VI – Overlay District, Harvard Square and Series VII – Sites.

Series V – Organizations and Institutions

Limited materials on a few of the many organizations and institutions concerned with the preservation of Harvard Square can be found here. While most of these groups receive only passing mention, their inclusion here serves to identify them as possible sources to be pursued further elsewhere. Three of the most influential groups were the Cambridge Citizens Advisory Committee, The Coalition for Harvard Square, and the Harvard Square Advisory Committee.

Series VI – Overlay District, Harvard Square

The longstanding regulations governing the erection and renovation of buildings in the Harvard Square area, the Overlay, came under criticism in the 1980s. This series records, to a limited extent, the proposed revisions, the ensuing debate, and the community activism directed toward the adoption of the reforms.

Series VII – Publications, Neighborhood Profiles

These descriptions, known as profiles, of nine Cambridge neighborhoods were prepared by the City of Cambridge Community Development Office in 1974 and 1975.

Series VIII – Sites

Except for the three folders on the Brattle Square site, which give a full account of the issues surrounding its development, the information available on the ten other development sites included here is sparse and limited. As is true elsewhere in this collection, the most useful aspect of these materials is the identification of these locations as being at issue, and so to enable further pursuit of the subject elsewhere.

Folder List

Series I – Cambridge, City of

Box I

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Community Development Department | 1986, undated |
| 2. Licensing | 1985, 1986 |
| 3. Planning Board, Signs | 1989 |

Series II – Clippings

4. Clippings

Series III – FreshPond Reservation

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| 5. Fresh Pond | 1931-1932 |
| 6. Fresh Pond | 1960ties |
| 7. Fresh Pond | 1971 |
| 8. Fresh Pond | 1975 |
| 9. Fresh Pond | 1977 |
| 10. Fresh Pond | 1978 |
| 11. Fresh Pond Task Force | 1977 |
| 12. Cambridge Sports Union | 1978, 1980 |
| 13. Master Plan | 1978 |
| 14. Water Supply Publications | 1975, 1976 |

Series IV – Harvard Square Defense Fund

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 15. Financial | 1986, 1987 |
| 16. Meetings | 1984, 1986,
1987 |
| 17. Membership | 1985, 1986-
1989 |
| 18. Minutes | 1986 |
| 19. Minutes | 1987 |
| 20. Minutes | 1988 |
| 21. Mission Statement | undated |
| 22. Newsletter/Annual Fund | 1987, 1988 |

Series V -- Organizations and Institutions

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 23. Cambridge Citizens Advisory Committee | 1986, 1988 |
| 24. Cambridge Neighborhoods | 1987, 1988,
undated |
| 25. Citizens United for Research and Education (CURE) | 1988 |
| 26. Coalition for Harvard Square | 1987, 1988 |
| 27. Harvard Square Advisory Committee | 1986 |
| 28. Harvard University | 1989, undated |
| 29. Riverside Organization of Cambridge | 1987, 1988,
undated |

Series VI – Overlay, Harvard Square

Box II

30.Overlay District	1985
31.Overlay District	1986
32.Overlay District	1988
33.Overlay District “Development Guidelines”	1986
34.Overlay District Petitions	undated, 1987, 1988
35.Overlay District Regulations – drafts	1979, undated

Series VII – Publications, Neighborhood Profiles

36.Agassiz Neighborhood Profile	1974
37.Cambridgeport Neighborhood Profile	1975
38.East Cambridge Neighborhood Profile	1975
39.Mid-Cambridge Neighborhood Profile	1974
40.Neighborhood 2 Profile	1975
41.Neighborhood 3 Profile	1975
42.Neighborhood 9 Profile	1974
43.North Cambridge Profile	1975
44.Riverside Neighborhood Profile	1975

Series VIII – Sites

45.Brattle Square Development	1987
46.Brattle Square Development	1988
47.Brattle Square Environmental Certificate	January 4, 1988
48.Gulf Station/Harvard Hotel	1988
49.Harvard Motor House	1982, 1988, 1989
50.Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority	1986
51.119-123 Mt. Auburn Street	1986
52.St. Paul’s Church	1986, 1987
53.Story Street	1989
54.10 Mt. Auburn Street	1985
55.13-19 Mt. Auburn Street/4-6 Arrow Street	1986
56.12-14 Mifflin Place/40 Brattle Street	1988
57.Winthrop Park	1987

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