



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

(617) 349-4260

FAX (617) 349-4307

tty/TDD (617) 492-0235

D. MARGARET DRURY
CITY CLERK

DONNA P. LOPEZ
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

TO: ROBERT W. HEALY, CITY MANAGER

FROM: ^{DM} D. MARGARET DRURY, CITY CLERK

DATE: October 1, 1997

RE: HARVARD SQUARE

The attached press release from Historic Massachusetts, listing Harvard Square One of Massachusetts' Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources, was referred to your department with a request to complete relevant zoning and/or historic preservation work and refer to the City Council as soon as possible.

Your kind attention in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

cc: Councillor Duehay



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DONNA P. LOPEZ
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

TO: SUSAN SCHLESINGER, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

FROM: *DM*
D. MARGARET DRURY, CITY CLERK

DATE: October 1, 1997

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DONNA P. LOPEZ
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TO: PAUL DIETRICH, CHAIRMAN
PLANNING BOARD

FROM: ^{DM} D. MARGARET DRURY, CITY CLERK

DATE: October 1, 1997

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D. MARGARET DRURY
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DONNA P. LOPEZ
DEPUTY CITY CLERK

TO: CHARLES SULLIVAN
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FROM: ^{DMD} D. MARGARET DRURY, CITY CLERK

DATE: October 1, 1997

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HISTORIC MASSACHUSETTS

The nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving
the Commonwealth's historic and cultural heritage

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 29, 1997

Contact: Margaret Dyson
617-723-3383

Local Contact: Charlotte Moore
617-491-6278

HARVARD SQUARE, CAMBRIDGE
ONE OF MASSACHUSETTS'
TEN MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES

Historic Massachusetts, the state's leading advocate for historic preservation, announces that *Harvard Square* in Cambridge has been named to the *Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources* list for 1997.

The list includes landmark buildings, landscapes, and structures which are representative of the history and culture of the Commonwealth and are seriously threatened by neglect, insufficient funding, vandalism, inappropriate development, or insensitive public policy. The sites were nominated for the list by local groups and individuals concerned about the possible loss of these important historic community resources. The list was selected after careful review by leading members of the Massachusetts preservation community.

Harvard Square in Cambridge was once the center of the colonial settlement of Newtowne. The earliest planned town in New England, Newtowne was laid out in 1631. Commerce and transportation utilized the area's natural waterways and topography. Historic buildings, sites, and the original street pattern of the Newtowne settlement are still evident in Harvard Square today, which continues to be a vibrant center of commercial, residential, and institutional activity. The architectural inventory of the area spans more than 200 years, from late 18th century Harvard club buildings to 20th century office, retail, and residential developments.

Remarkably, the rich historic resources of Harvard Square are not protected by any local historic district. Many of the most significant structures have been preserved by owner cooperation, individual landmark designation, grassroots preservation efforts or just good luck. However, a gradual trend toward larger and larger development in the Square has threatened the balance between preservation and new construction. Such large scale development not only alters the context of the remaining historic structures, but also is inextricably changing the character of the Square by introducing less local, more national retailing.

Change and new growth are inevitable and often desirable, but without further preservation protections or incentives, this unique place may become compromised. Some recent success stories can be told -- including the Cambridge Savings Bank's praise-worthy decision to restore the facade of the red brick block in the heart of the Square -- but other historic buildings remain at risk if not the "highest and best use" as defined by the zoning code or the marketplace. Harvard Square should be designated a landmark district to signal that preservation is, in fact, the "highest and best" public purpose.

For more information on the Ten Most Endangered List or any of the programs of Historic Massachusetts, please call us at 617-723-3383.

+ Old City Hall + 45 School Street + Boston, MA 02108 + Tel. 617 723 3383 + Fax 617 523 3782 +





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Communications and Reports From City
Officers #2

5-609

A communication was received from Councillor Francis H. Duehay, transmitting a letter from Historic Massachusetts, listing Harvard Square as One Of The Ten Most Endangered Historic Resources.

In City Council September 29, 1997

Referred to City
Manager and Community
Development, Planning
Board and Historical
Commission with request
that their work in
Zoning and Historic
Preservation be
Completed and referred
to City Council as
soon as possible.