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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable, The City Council

**FROM:** Councillor Francis H. Duehay *FHD*

**DATE:** September 22, 1994

**SUBJECT:** Monuments Committee

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I am enclosing a summary of the report of the **Monuments Committee** appointed in 1990 by former Mayor Alice Wolf. The compilation of the report was finished this summer by Sean Denniston, former administrative assistant to Mayor Wolf. The text of the complete report will be on file in the City Clerk's Office.

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enclosure

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## **Executive Summary Mayor's Committee on City Monuments**

The institutional history of the City of Cambridge is as old as its founding as Newtowne in 1630. Since Cambridge became a City in 1846 the one hundred and forty-six years of collecting records, objects d'art, and portraiture are not only a part of our active governmental record, required of any modern city, but the best guide to our institutional history. However, the lack of coherent and comprehensive record keeping of this institutional history has endangered this important part of our heritage. To rectify this very real danger, a 1990 City Council order formed the Mayor's Committee on City Monuments. The Committee met several times during 1991 to recommend preservation measures for decorative arts in the City's possession, improved public dissemination of objects within the City, and improved acknowledgement of notable residents, most importantly, veterans honored by Gold Star Memorials.

For the City's decorative arts collection, the Monuments Committee recommends:

1. Further research of possibly valuable items.
2. Clearly defined City ownership of items to prevent deaccessioning.
3. Publication of a comprehensive catalogue for public distribution and internal cataloguing.

For the Gold Star Memorials, the Monuments Committee recommends:

1. The completion of the new signage for Gold Star Squares.
2. Publication of a map and brief biography of each person honored by a Gold Star Square.
3. Re-dedication of Gold Star Squares with press and cable coverage.
4. City Council guidelines on the naming of future Gold Star Squares.

Mayor's Committee of City Monuments  
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The Monuments Committee's general recommendations are as follows:

1. The City Manager takes "ownership" responsibility of protected items as described by the Monuments Committee.
2. The City Manager forms an "Arts Committee" staffed by the Arts Council, the Department of Public Works, Historical Commission, Library Department, and School Department, to generate a list of protected items, preservation schedules, publication of a catalogue for public distribution, and a data base for internal cataloguing within two years of the presentation of this report.
3. The City Manager takes administrative responsibility to protect outdoor monuments from vandalism and repair damaged items.
4. The transfer of administrative responsibility (though not storage) of murals, paintings, and portraiture from Public Works to the Arts Council, and objects d'art and monuments (before 1970) to the Historical Commission.
5. An annual display in "Gallery 57" of City objects that could be temporary loaned to interested City departments, and all City departments, the Cambridge Housing Authority, and School Department be informed of the annual display.

Preface:

The history of the City of Cambridge reaches back to its founding as Newtowne in 1630. In 1638 Newtowne became the town of Cambridge, and in 1846, the City of Cambridge. As a town and later as a City Cambridge was renowned for its universities: first Harvard, then the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and later other specialized institutions. Until the mid-20th century, the City of Cambridge was an industrial center, and still has an ethnically diverse population. Cambridge's rich and varied history intertwines that of the United States. While the universities remain Cambridge's most famous asset, the government of Cambridge possesses its own, rich, and diverse history. From its incorporation as a city, its old bicameral council structure, from "strong mayors" to the present Plan E form of government, and through public officials who later became prominent in academics, state, and national affairs, the government of Cambridge has always mirrored the city it governs.

The City does undertake certain outreach projects of a historical or artistic nature. The Arts Council was mandated in 1979 under Ordinance 923, the "One Percent for Art Ordinance"

to promote the enjoyment of the arts by the residents of the City of Cambridge by increasing the quantity and quality of such visible arts available in public buildings, facilities and spaces.

The Ordinance provides for one per cent of all capital expenditure funds be set aside for art and administered by the Arts Council. Since the Ordinance was enacted, a City wide "network" of mostly contemporary public and outdoor art has been placed in parks, playgrounds, schools, subway stations, and various City buildings. The Arts Council was also mandated to maintain accurate records for inventory, maintenance, and conservation.

The Cambridge Historical Commission (CHC) was established in 1963 (G.L. c.40, s. 8D) to administer historic districts and to publish an architectural history of Cambridge. The Commission now has approximately 2,500 buildings under some form of protective designation and has an active research and publications program. The Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge was published in five volumes between 1965 and 1977. Other publications include A Photographic History of Cambridge (1984), Maintaining your Old House in Cambridge (1988), and the forthcoming Old Cambridge (expected publication 1993). The Commission has an extensive archive containing information on all 13,000 buildings in Cambridge, as well as a collection of approximately 26,000 maps and photographic images. The Commission has also taken responsibility for restoration of the City's historic parks and public art, including the Old Burying Ground (1975-1977), Fort Washington (1976-1988), Longfellow Park (1986-1990), the Soldier's Monument on Cambridge Common (1991-1993), and the bronze statuary throughout the city (1993).

Despite the activities of the Arts Council and the Historical Commission, the institutional history of Cambridge has been a patchwork of scattered records, oral traditions, artworks, and even, fragments of buildings. The dangers of three hundred and sixty-one years of history being kept in a slapdash manner is obvious. Objects records can be lost or destroyed, and the City will be unable to acknowledge the accomplishments of past residents, politicians, or the importance of local events.

In undertaking a project to document the City's institutional history, the Mayor's Committee on City Monuments had a mandate to focus on two very specific genres: the "external," or the designation of City squares, parks, and buildings; and the "internal," of portraits, paintings, and decorative arts. While much needs to be done on record keeping, the history of ethnic groups, and oral history, other groups such as Cambridge Discovery,

the African-American History Project, the Oral History Project, and future special committees will undertake these projects. It is therefore the wish of this Committee that the work carried out on monuments and decorative arts will be the start of a detailed cataloguing project of City "possessions".

Founding of Monuments Committee:

The Mayor's Committee on City Monuments was established by orders 34 and 35 proposed by City Councillor Frank Duehay in the July 30, 1990 City Council meeting (see appendix):

Order 34 provided for establishment of a commission by Her Honor, the Mayor, to institute a process for determining the background of City squares, parks, and buildings and erecting suitable plaques with appropriate biographical information.

Order 35 provided for a committee of concerned citizens and City employees to catalogue all official City paintings and portraits and to develop a comprehensive plan to offer them for loan or exhibition to interested public, non-profit, or private institutions.

By the agreement of Councillor Duehay and Mayor Wolf the implementation of City Council orders 34 and 35 were consolidated. The Mayor and Councillor Duehay also agreed that the appointed committee would represent the diversity of the City, and also have representatives of relevant City Departments (see appendix for January 3, 1991 and January 22, 1991 letters announcing members). Several City departments took part in the Monuments Committee's work. The duties of the participating City departments are briefly stated below:

1. **The Historical Commission (CHC)** had primary responsibility for cataloguing of City artifacts. CHC was also responsible for compiling a database of artifacts (except for contemporary art). CHC assisted in the interviewing and hiring of an intern and developed the methodology for the Decorative Arts Inventory. CHC undertook research on uses of catalogued artifacts, the biographies of various artists, and the factories where catalogued artifacts were produced. CHC

communicated with the staffs of the American Museum Association and the American Association of State and Local History on behalf of the Monuments Committee. Last, the CHC researched and answered general questions raised during the Committee's work and served as an arbitrator on questions of historical significance.

2. **The Arts Council** maintains a catalogue of public art commissioned for the City of Cambridge that includes comprehensive data on each work commissioned, following standard conservation and maintenance practices. The Arts Council informed the Monuments Committee of the planned publication of a directory by Julie Thacker featuring all the City commissioned contemporary art work over the last fifteen years, along with prominent outdoor nineteenth century historical sculpture, and references to private collections accessible to the public. The Arts Council explained relevant national projects such as the Smithsonian Institution national survey of public art and Arts Council preservation concerns to the Committee.
3. **Veterans Services** conducted research on memorial designations of the City's streets, squares, and public spaces. The Executive Director of Veterans Services served on the hiring committee for the Decorative Arts Intern. Under the direction of Veterans Services, the culling of City Council and federal records on the naming of Gold Star Squares (memorials to veterans killed in action) occurred. Veterans Services produced a comprehensive list of Gold Star Squares as well as the design and installation of a new Gold Star memorial sign in tandem with the Arts Council.
4. **City Clerk's Office** contributed knowledge on the status of records maintained by the City and statutory obligations as mandated by the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Office. The City Clerk answered many procedural questions about Cambridge and provided a profound and comprehensive knowledge of the City's institutional history and culture.
5. **Cambridge Public Library (CPL)** offered a complement of records and artifacts maintained by City departments that served on the Monuments Committee. The CPL maintains a specialized collection on Cambridge history at its main branch and storage space in East Cambridge. The CPL designee provided active input into Committee hearings and provided materials on CPL collections.
6. **Public Works (DPW)** has had primary responsibility for storage of City artifacts and portraiture. The City Architect, who served as the DPW designee, facilitated access to DPW storage areas and supervised movement and preservation of many City objects and artifacts previous to the Monument Committee's

founding.

Committee Methodology:

The methodology as stated in the "standing orders" of the January 29, 1991 meeting was for the Committee to take the following action: to locate City Council Orders authorizing the naming (or renaming) of City Squares; request the City Engineering Department to produce a comprehensive map of City squares; request that Veterans Services examine its records for any biographical information on persons for whom City parks and squares are named (the Committee felt the Veterans Services records, post-1945, would be useful); request that the Arts Council and the Historical Commission contribute information from their respective reports on outdoor art and cataloguing of plaques and memorials.

After the first meeting the Committee changed its methodology from the record culling to a examination and cataloguing of objects d'art. The record culling of Veterans Services, however, continued. The work of Veterans Services' staff resulted in the identification of eighty-nine Gold Star Squares and other memorials, including three buildings. While records of the City Clerk's Office have well maintained indexes and actual records, they are not easily obtainable for security reasons or because of staffing limitations. The records were not necessary useful for much of the Historical Commission undertook, because of the shift in focus from records to objects. Most of the cataloguing would be done by search and discovery.

Progress of Meetings:

The first meeting of the Mayor's Committee on City Monuments was held on January 29, 1991 in the Ackermann Room at City Hall. The Chair, Councillor Duehay, set the tone of the committee by stating its intention to create a better understanding of public squares and spaces and the importance of learning, preserving, and

understanding the past. Beyond the purpose of this project to understand our municipal past, Councillor Duehay divided this purpose into three tenets:

1. A Comprehensive list of everything constituting "art" with the ability to periodically update and generate lists.
2. A select guide of historic work for public consumption.
3. Plaques for outdoor monuments comprising explanations of the memorial including historical significance and artist, with the ability for periodic additions.

From the first meeting it was apparent that different departments had undertaken a number of relevant projects. For example, the Historical Commission had completed a list of outdoor monuments, and the Arts Council had prepared for publication a list of outdoor art, post-1970. At the same meeting, members of the Arts Council commented that they understood objects pre-1970 fell under the jurisdiction of the Historical Commission. While each project was known to the other department, there was no standard definition of "art" so one's department definition of "art" might not be an other department's definition of "monument". The Committee felt the need to standardized formats and establish communication between departments on artistic and historical matters. The Committee felt any such communication and standardization between departments needs to be "institutionalized".

At the January 29th meeting Donald York of the Library described the collections of the Cambridge Room and its progression from a depository of "Cambridge only" (i.e., local authors, Cambridge published books) to a more comprehensive guide of City collections including street directories and Chronicles on microfilm. The Library in its East Cambridge branch maintains a number of records (see appendix). The City Clerk's office noted that City Council indexes from 1900 to present are kept there, in addition to vital City records. While the City Clerk's Office and Microfilm Services

have strived to maintain a high level of record keeping and photographing, to date, no common catalogue exists of where different types of City records are kept and who is responsible for their maintenance. Such a "directory" needs to be generated and kept in a central location(s).

The information gathered at the early meeting represents collections of data and compilations by different city departments. While record keeping is of considerable importance and at some point in the future needs to be comprehensively addressed, the bulk of the Committee's work related to objects d'art; the exception was records in Veterans Services that represented the documenting of Gold Star Memorials.

Decorative Arts Inventory:

The Committee decided to hire an intern to broaden the project beyond the original mandate of public squares and portraits. Funding for the intern was provided by the City Council Office and the Mayor's Office. Initially, the intern was envisioned as being a graduate student with some familiarity of decorative arts and computer data bases. The Committee developed a proposed workplan for the intern (see appendix). The Monuments Committee agreed on three primary areas of focus:

1. Development of a standardized inventory form for all objects d'art, in all department.
2. Photographs of inventoried objects with a catalogue published and maintained by a named individual or department.
3. Recommendations for future work and lists that need to be compiled.

The Committee discussed at length the amount of work an intern could manage to undertake and complete over the course of a summer. Members expressed concern that an intern could be sent on "fools errands" if care was not taken to prevent wasteful duplication.

The Committee members felt strongly that uncompleted work be left in such a form that someone else could continue or finished it at a future date.

The Chair, Councillor Duehay, appointed a subcommittee consisting of: Charles Sullivan, Executive Director of the Historical Commission; William Cabral, Director of Veterans Services; Don York, Cambridge Public Library; and Sean Denniston, Mayor's Office to hire an intern. After reviewing resumes in May and June and conducting interviews Karen Jensen was hired. Ms. Jensen had recently graduated from Williams College with a contract major, "Architectural Environments" that incorporated art history, studio arts, and environmental studies. Additionally, Ms. Jensen was familiar with computer data bases\*, considered of greater importance than comprehensive decorative arts knowledge. Ms. Jensen was hired under contract for twelve weeks from July 1, 1991 as the Decorative Arts Inventory Supervisor.

#### Methodology:

It was decided to survey all municipal buildings, including those under the control of the Public Works (DPW), Fire, Police, Water, Human Services (DHSP), Hospital, and School Departments, as well as all offices and storage spaces in City Hall, the City Hall Annex, and other administrative buildings (see Appendix). At the request of the Committee, the City Manager's Office asked department heads to provide an escort for the inventory supervisor and to give access to all spaces under their jurisdiction. Every City department approached cooperated with the City Manager's request.

A representative of the department in charge of storage or upkeep generally guided Ms. Jensen through each facility. She

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\*The data base used in the inventory was Personal R:base. A detailed explanation of the data bases and its application, as related to the inventory is located in the Appendix.

investigated all major spaces and, when possible, interviewed knowledgeable personnel. A separate inventory form was completed for each object, except in a few cases where collections of small objects (e.g., fire department paraphernalia) were included collectively on one form. Each object was photographed on 35mm black and white film. When the inventory was complete, contact prints were affixed to the appropriate forms and additional data, if readily available, was added to the form before the information was entered into the data base.

Selection criteria into the Decorative Arts survey were broadly defined as including:

1. fine art objects -- sculptures, portraits, paintings (including landscape), photographs.
2. documentary objects meant for display -- historical photographs and other artifacts (including architectural fragments and models).
3. decorative objects of common use -- primarily furniture.

The criteria for evaluating an item's eligibility for the inventory was purposely broad, in recognition of the diversity of the objects held by the City. Seven other criteria developed during the course of the survey including:

1. Is the object "fine" i.e., an item of outstanding quality for its type.
2. Is the object unique or rare? Is it likely to be so in the future (e.g., the telegraph alarms and fire bells at older fire stations, though not scarce, are rapidly disappearing with more advance communication technology).
3. Is the object special to its context (e.g., designed or used exclusively in a specific building) or part of the historical record of a specific building.
4. Is the object a good illustrative of an unusual context (e.g., old pumps at the Water Departments).
5. Is the object unexpected in its location (e.g., only expressly decorative maps at DPW were inventoried).

6. Is the object architectural (in a decorative context only).
7. Is the object a plaque? (e.g., commemorative plaques were not inventoried, but are for the most part registered by Historical Commission or Arts Council inventories).

An object that met one or any of the seven criteria were included in the survey. Some items were, of course, exceptions.

Objects were not identified because there was insufficient time to affix permanent, painted labels. Each object has a unique number, however, which should be permanently applied with an identifying mark to indicate that the object has been inventoried.

Findings:

The inventory identified about 150 objects, ranging from steam boiler gauges manufactured in Cambridgeport in the early twentieth century to marble busts, oil paints, and plaster casts of classical friezes. A breakdown of catalogued objects is as follows:

Types of Objects Inventories

Portraits	
oil paintings	24
framed photographs	16
busts	7
Art objects	
scene paintings	11
murals	3
framed objects	4
plaster casts and	
sculpture	6
miscellaneous	20
Furniture	40

Tools and equipment 6

Clocks 3

Miscellaneous 12

Portraits of all types formed the largest category of objects (47) followed by decorative objects (44) and furniture (40). The twenty-four oil paintings comprise the most significant portion of the City's collection, although most are in storage. Although few are by recognized artists, they form the most complete visual record available of major political figures of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

The furniture inventoried is also significant. At the time of its construction, City Hall was furnished with numerous pieces designed by the architectural firm that designed City Hall, Longfellow, Alden & Harlow, and manufactured by Keeler & Co. in East Cambridge. These pieces which included chairs, tables, and desks, were intended to complement the architecture of the building. Many are still in City Hall, but others have been dispersed and remain in other City departments. As period pieces they have real monetary and historic value. Their location and condition should be carefully monitored.

A great variety of miscellaneous objects were included in the survey including firemen's tool, the balances used by the Weights and Measures Department, and artifacts kept by the Water Department. The Historical Commission has a collection of architectural fragments, signs, and ephemera in addition to its archive of historical photographs and building inventory.

Ms. Jensen's recommendations and catalogue are described elsewhere in this report.

### SQUARES, CIRCLES AND GOLD STARS:

The great squares of Cambridge for the most part have obvious associations with their names, Harvard Square adjoining a university of the same name; Central Square being roughly the geographic center of the City; while others such as Inman, Lechmere, and Kendall Squares are figured to belong to people or families of like names, and yet others, for example, Technology or Freedom Squares represent concepts. Cambridge in actuality possesses many squares -- most of them not actually squares. On many street corners, traffic circles, and even an underpass, there are memorials to individuals who served, and likely died, for their country.

The honoring of those veterans who died for their country has been a longstanding tradition of the City of Cambridge. For example the Arts Council has its antediluvian ancestor the "Public Celebration" Committee which organized commemorative events in honor of the Union victory in the Civil War. The Veterans Services Department of the City of Cambridge among its duties organizes remembrance services for Memorial and Veterans Day and is responsible for maintenance of squares named for military personnel killed in combat. These memorials are known as Gold Star Squares (see appendix for enabling legislation).

### Methodology:

The design and installation of a new Gold Star Square marker was undertaken, in part, to an order introduced by City Councillor Francis Duehay and passed by the City Council on July 30, 1991. The order (number 34) requested that the Mayor

appoint a committee of interested City employees and citizens to institute and implement a process to determine the background of the persons for whom all City squares, parks, and buildings are named; and to initiate a process for erecting suitable plaques describing in brief the appropriate biographical information about each person so honored.

The Monument Committee during its initial meeting was informed by Veterans Services Director, William Cabral, of the two categories of veterans memorials:

1. Veterans killed in action (KIA) are granted the designation of Gold Stars.
2. Veterans who lived in the City (e.g., Clifton Merriman) or veterans who were not residents of Cambridge but were prominent in military or other fields (e.g., Douglas MacArthur, George Washington).

Mr. Cabral also told the Committee that there is no central document site or file for veterans' memorials. Thus, any research into Gold Star Squares would be by search and discovery. Among the problems were that deceased veterans' records cannot be obtained from the military if the request is from the next of kin. However, some research had been carried out on Cambridge veterans. Jim Fahey, a military historian, had researched Cambridge veterans from the Civil War to the First World War, though the Monuments Committee did not examine Mr. Fahey's research during the Committee's tenure.

#### Definition of a Square:

The first challenge of the Monument Committee was defining a designation to be catalogued. While a hard and fast definition of a "square" was never written, it was decided at the initial meeting that the origins of over 800 street names of Cambridge would not be incorporated within the final report\*\*. This still

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\*\* With well over eight hundred streets in Cambridge the Monuments Committee decided not to trace the origin of street names since Councillor Duehay's orders 34 and 35 of the July 30, 1991 City Council meeting did not require such an undertaking. Though a topic of interest, the large number of streets and the limited time and staffing available to the Committee made such a project nearly impossible to carry out. The only exception made to designating streets were those streets named for Gold Star Veterans (e.g., Nicholas Sciarappa Street and Square in East Cambridge, or Robert Goodman Road off Broadway in Mid-Cambridge).

left a problem of where to cull information on squares. In the guide published by the Department of Public Works on Commemorative Squares, one hundred and two commemorative squares are listed. While comprehensive the guide fails to designate Gold Star Squares from squares named for area residents (e.g., Dr. Timothy Crane, City Councillor Michael Sullivan) or national figures (e.g., Abraham Lincoln, Douglas MacArthur).

The process of separating (and in some cases correcting) the different categories of City squares fell to Veterans Services. Through work in War Records (military records kept by the Federal Government in Boston), research in City Council and Veterans Services records, and some oral history a complete list of Gold Star Squares (and memorials) was written. The completed list included name of honored veteran (including date of birth, branch of service, rank, and where killed), location, and caretaker (usually a local American Legion or Veterans of Foreign Wars post), if applicable was written. Again, complications were discovered, as lists such as those at the War Memorial Pool do not distinguish Gold Star from other veterans, and such squares as Douglas MacArthur (Massachusetts Avenue, Garden and Peabody Streets) or Clifton Merriman (West and Inman Street) were wrongly given "gold star" designation. Using the Public Works list of Commemorative Squares as an absolute, of the one hundred and two squares listed by DPW eighty-nine squares and three buildings are named for Gold Star Veterans. Within the Gold Star definition are commemorative squares, circle, or other type of memorial (i.e., playgrounds and streets), three buildings (McCusker Building, City Hall Annex, 57 Inman Street; the Daniel A. Haggerty School, Cushing and Lawn Street, West Cambridge; and the Salvatore Valente Library, Cambridge Street, East Cambridge), and four memorials (not counted among the eighty-nine total memorials) named "Gold Star".

#### DESIGN OF THE GOLD STAR MEMORIAL SIGN:

A proposed Gold Star sign was presented to the Monuments Committee in March. While members of the Committee were impressed with the gold tint a number of editorial comments were made. The members desired that pertinent information be placed on the sign (i.e., date of birth, where the veteran was killed) and a City Seal. Some members were concern about the use standardized DPW type lettering. The Chair appointed Pallas Lombardi of the Arts Council and Mr. Cabral to investigate options in lettering suitable to the memorial aspect of the sign. The findings of the sign subcommittee was the cost of lettering not stocked in DPW would raise the cost of each sign from approximately twenty dollars per sign (at a cost of roughly ninety cents a letter) to upwards of two hundred dollars per sign (at a revised cost of almost two dollars per letter). Through the assistance of the Deputy City Manager and the Department of Public Works funding was found and over the summer, 1991, most of the old DPW signs were replaced with new gold tinted signs made by DPW and installed by the Traffic Department. In appreciation, the Monuments Committee sent letters to the two DPW and the two Traffic and Parking Department employees who made and installed the signs.

#### Findings:

As emphasized by the Veterans Services Department, the project of naming Gold Star memorials is not complete. Ten squares that still need to be accounted for. No central depository exists for records of Cambridge veterans and the culling of information from both local and federal records. The creation of new memorial signs has had the dual effect of bringing attention to sometimes neglected squares and memorials and the start of improved centralized records on veterans' memorials.

The Monuments Committee found there is still some misunderstanding about the different types of memorials and squares within the City of Cambridge. Many residents do not know the difference between a

Gold Star Memorial from other types of monuments or that some of our most used streets, branches of the Public Library and a school are Gold Star Memorials. This misunderstanding should not be taken as a lack of interest, as noted by the December 1991 Boston Magazine article about Corporal Albert Stanley Teevan, Jr. Square (a Gold Star Memorial) on the traffic island where Concord Avenue feeds into Alewife Brook Parkway. The interest in the newly installed signs is encouraging and should be followed by some improved press coverage of the Gold Star Project. Regardless, some families have expressed a desire that there not be a memorial for their slained next of kin and the Monument Committee will respect such families' privacy.

The Gold Star Memorials recommendations appear elsewhere in this report.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendations are placed in three categories: the proposed recommendations developed by the Decorative Arts Inventory Supervisor; the recommendations of the Veterans Services on Gold Star squares; and general Monuments Committee recommendations. The latter include elements of both the Decorative Arts and Veterans Services recommendations or might represent procedural suggestions. The Committee believes that this troika of recommendations will make it easier for future committees or City officials to act upon recommendations most relevant to their departments. The placing of three categories should not be seen as long incomprehensible laundry list of suggestions but rather guides towards the major projects of this Committee.

#### I. Recommendations of the Decorative Arts Inventory:

The monitoring of the conditions of objects in the City's care must continue. Objects that were inventoried should be evaluated, and those that are determined to be significant should be registered

protected:

1. Further research. Some of the objects, such as the oil portraits and busts, are not completely identified and their importance is not well understood. Some additional staff time should be spent to amplify this aspect of the inventory.
2. Qualitative evaluation. The objects inventoried vary greatly in type, condition, and quality. All inventoried objects should be evaluated by knowledgeable people in the field to determine their significance to the City.
3. Designation. An executive order by the City Manager or a City Council ordinance passed by the City Council could establish a register of significant decorative objects. Such a register should contain criteria for evaluation, provide for determinations by a committee appointed for the purpose, and extend protection for designated objects. Protected items should be labelled appropriately, and departments with custody of them should be made aware of their importance.
4. Administration of the Decorative Arts Inventory. The inventory should be maintained by the Cambridge Historical Commission or the Cambridge Arts Council. Whether or not a register is established, responsibility for keeping track of inventoried objects should be established in one place and a periodic review should be conducted. Investigation of placing the inventory on the City's mainframe should be pursued allowing individual departments to make amendments to the register. The administration of the Decorative Arts Inventory need not require a significant investment of staff time, but the responsibility should be clearly delegated.

## II. Gold Star Squares Recommendations:

As emphasized by the Veterans Services Department the project of naming Gold Star is not complete. They estimate around ten squares still need to be accounted for, and as in the Decorative Arts Inventory, there are exceptions. Some families have expressed a desire that there not be a memorial for their slained next of kin. Accuracy of memorials and designation must be carefully monitored; in at least one case a Gold Star Memorial was installed under the deceased veterans nickname.

1. Completion of the installation of all the Gold Star Squares.

2. Rededication of a Gold Star Square with surviving family of late veteran, City political figures, and press and cable coverage.
3. Request the Cambridge Chronicle to write an article on the Gold Star Squares with complete list of squares and map published in newspaper.
4. The list of Gold Star Squares with appropriate biographical information (i.e., date of birth of veteran, where slained, photo of veteran, if possible) be published in a booklet for public consumption.
5. The City Council establish a set of guidelines for the naming of future memorials that would include reasons for the memorial that could be placed in a booklet that would be periodically updated.

### III. General Committee Recommendations:

1. The founding of an "Arts Committee" jointly operated by the Cambridge Historical Commission and the Arts Council to generate a directory of protected artworks and artifacts with general responsibility to maintain and recommend preservation work.
2. The Arts Committee or components of committee should pursue protection of outdoor monuments from vandalism. The Committee should meet with the Police Commissioner, the Commissioner of Public Works, and the City Manager, or designee, to develop a comprehensive strategy for protection of said works. Officials from the School Department should be contacted whether their generally successful anti-vandalism program should be adopted city wide.
3. Portraits should be placed under the jurisdiction of the Arts Council mandating them to encourage the hanging of the portraits in City buildings and general responsibility for their care and preservation. Storage and transport of portraits should remain with the Department of Public Works.
4. Annually, the Arts Committee should organize in Gallery 57 a display of City artifacts and portraiture with the purpose of loaning items to interested departments upon agreement by responsible department representatives to sign a previously drafted loan agreement.
5. The Arts Committee should investigate the possibility of a catalogue of City art works and artifacts to be placed in the City data base with amendments possible by the Arts Committee or relevant departments. The data base should also be

accessible to the public, scholars, and historians to acquire information on public art, historic monuments, architecture, artifacts, and military monuments (including location of Gold Star memorials, landmarks, veterans' commemorations). The existing Decorative Arts inventory, the Arts Council archives, the list of Gold Star and veterans' memorials should be the core of the proposed data base.

6. The publication of a booklet of significant art works in Cambridge with illustrations of pieces in the possession of the Cambridge Historical Commission, the Arts Council, the Cambridge Public Library, Veterans Services et al.. The listing of veterans' memorials with map could be included in the booklet or published separately.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

Cambridge is a city of considerable age and history. It is also a living institution embodied in its people and institutions. As a living body politic its arts, memorials, and monuments will continue to expand. Therefore, it is important that care be taken not only for objects of the City's past but also for objects of its future. The recommendations in this report to protect Cambridge's objects d'art, artifacts, and portraiture should be considered and applied for the City's future objects, whether photographs, outdoor art, commissioned contemporary pieces, or memorial plaques. Protection of these items (as with the historic objects) should include cataloguing, preservation programs, and protection from vandalism and environmental damage.

The work undertaken by the Monuments Committee represents several months of work and dedication from "experts" and "non-experts" alike drawn by an interest in our common heritage of Cambridge. The work undertaken in cataloguing the City decorative art objects onto a data base and the comprehensive listing and installation of new Gold Star Squares signs represent progress (as well as a visual sign) of the Committee's work.

Storage conditions within the City are generally good, although general appreciation of objects and security for them is often

lacking. Many objects, such as the furniture, remain in daily use. Portraits removed from City Hall have been restored and are kept in a secure room at the Department of Public Works on Hampshire Street. In the past, however, there has been little appreciation for some objects, such as portrait busts and classical friezes removed from schools undergoing renovations. Many "out of date" objects have been destroyed willfully or by neglect.

The entire Monuments Committee project was undertaken in an era of severe fiscal restraint. The generally wide approval of the project indicates the significant level of concern that exists for the surveyed objects, and the interest people have towards the City's past. While little of the City's artifacts have any real monetary value, some of the portraits do. While the members of this committee would be loathe to see items sold (as was recently done in Holyoke) the Committee would be more distressed to see items destroyed or stolen. The work undertaken over the past year will give the City Council and the City Manager an idea of what exists in the way of the City's heritage, it will lay the foundation for a possible system of loans or displays within City departments or local organizations, and it will save money in that this project was done by volunteers and existing City departments, not by consultants hired after the accidental destruction or deaccessioning of a valuable or historic object.

APPENDIX I



# City of Cambridge

34.

IN CITY COUNCIL

July 30, 1990

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

ORDERED:

That the Mayor be and hereby is requested to appoint a committee of interested city employees and citizens to institute and implement a process to determine the background of the persons for whom all city squares, parks and buildings are named; and to initiate a process for erecting suitable plaques describing in brief form the appropriate biographical information about each person so honored.

In City Council July 30, 1990.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

*Joseph E. Connarton*

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

APPENDIX II



# City of Cambridge

35.

IN CITY COUNCIL  
July 30, 1990

COUNCILLOR DUEHAY

ORDERED:

That the Mayor be and hereby is requested to appoint a committee of concerned employees and citizens to catalogue all official city paintings and portraits now in the city's official possession and to develop a comprehensive plan to offer them on loan to any interested public, non-profit or private institute.

In City Council July 30, 1990.

Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.

Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

2.

COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS FROM  
CITY OFFICERS

S-397

Communication from Councillor  
Duehay regarding the Monument  
Committee.

In City Council,

September 26, 1994

Placed on file &  
referred to City  
manager to review &  
make recommendations  
to implement on  
motion of Councillor  
Sullivan  
9/28/94 copy sent to  
City manager @