National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2015

Revised: 9/2026



Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape

Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site

Table of Contents

Introduction

General Information

Concurrence Information

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology & Physical History

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Uses

Condition

Treatment

Bibliography & Supplemental Information

Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name:	Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape
Resource Level:	Cultural Landscape
CRIS-CL Resource ID:	650033
Inventory Status:	Complete

Park Information

Park Name:	Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site
Alpha Code:	LONG
Park Organization Code:	1800
Region:	Northeast
Restricted:	Yes

Landscape Description:

Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site (NHS) is located at 105 Brattle Street in Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. The 1.98-acre property is on the northern side of the street, facing Longfellow Memorial Park (city of Cambridge) and the Charles River beyond. Buildings on the site include the main Georgian style house, constructed in 1759, and a carriage house, constructed in 1844. The house served as the headquarters of General George Washington in 1775-1776, during the American Revolution, and was the home of noted poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow from 1837 until his death in 1882. Set in a residential district, the property once encompassed a large agricultural estate with commanding views of the Charles River. Today, the property is diminished in size, but retains a limited view of the Charles River.

The landscape at Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS is characterized as a designed residential landscape in the Colonial and Federal styles, with later Colonial Revival improvements. The front of the house features distinctive terracing, defined with a wooden balustrade and an elm-lined forecourt set amongst lawns and a central path. A carriage drive leads to the carriage house at the rear, with a drop-off loop at the side entrance to the house. The carriage drive also defines the historic laundry yard. A large European linden stands in the east lawn toward the rear of the house, where an enclosed Colonial Revival style formal garden remains on the footprint of an original, 1847 garden design. The formal garden was renovated by Alice Longfellow to its current layout in 1904-1905 and 1925. In 2005-2006, the garden was restored based on historical documentation, largely from the earlier 1925 rehabilitation by noted landscape architect Ellen Shipman.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 29, 1962. The property is also significant under National Register of Historic Places Criteria A, B, C, and D at the national and state levels. The site's overall period of significance is 1742-1972, beginning when enslaved people were first documented on Vassall property in Cambridge and ending when the park was established. Within this long span of time are specific periods of significance associated with specific areas of significance: Military History (1775-1776), Literature (1837-1882), Conservation (1837-1972), Social History (1742-1781), Architecture and

Landscape Architecture (1759-1928). In addition, the Post-Contact period of significance for Archeology is 1655-1900, and the Pre-Contact period of significance for Archeology is Late Archaic to Middle Woodland (4500 BP–1650 BP).

At the national level, the property possesses significance in the area of Military History for its associations with the Siege of Boston (April 19, 1775–March 1776) and with General George Washington (1732–1799). The Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House (also known as the Longfellow House) served as Washington's general headquarters from mid-July 1775, shortly after his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Army and arrival in Cambridge, to April 1776, after the British evacuation of Boston on March 17, 1776. The property possesses significance in the area of Literature as the residence of the acclaimed American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807–1882) from 1837 to his death and the place where he produced most of his writings. The Longfellow House was Longfellow's primary residence from the age of 30 to his death at 75 and the setting for his vibrant family and social life, both of which inspired his writing and captured the interest of a national audience. Still in print today, Longfellow's body of work holds a special place in American literary history and culture and has received renewed attention from a new generation of scholars. The property possesses significance in the area of Conservation for its association with important events in the history of historic preservation in the United States during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The preservation of the Longfellow House reflects the country's devotion to places associated with George Washington and the colonial period, a cause that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow helped to cultivate. It is also an example of the reverence for the homes of literary figures that became a hallmark of the historic house museum movement in the twentieth century. The property also possesses significance in the area of Conservation as the lifelong residence of Alice Mary Longfellow (1850–1928), Henry's daughter and a noted philanthropist and preservationist. In addition to helping ensure the preservation of the Longfellow House as a memorial to Washington and to her father, Alice Longfellow was actively involved with other preservation organizations and a champion of women's education. The property possesses significance in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The Longfellow House is an intact Georgian-style residence built in 1759 and expanded in the 1790s. The 1844 Carriage House/Barn is a good example of a Classical Revival-style estate outbuilding constructed to a design by architect George M. Dexter with later alterations by architect Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr. The Designed Landscape surrounding the house incorporates elements of the property's formal eighteenth- and nineteenth-century landscape within an early twentieth-century, Colonial Revival-style landscape that retains components designed by the pioneering female landscape architects Martha Brookes (Brown) Hutcheson and Ellen Biddle Shipman.

At the state level, the property possesses significance in the area of Social History for its association with the period following the American Revolution when the Massachusetts government addressed the vacuum left by Loyalist property owners who fled during the leadup to the Siege of Boston, including the status of enslaved individuals left in charge of their estates. The property has potential to yield information about the lives of enslaved laborers on estates like the Vassalls'. The property possesses significance in the area of Archeology, Historic–Non-Aboriginal, for its demonstrated and potential ability to provide important information about the settlement and architectural traditions of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in general and Cambridge in particular. It also has significance for its potential to provide meaningful data about the estate's landscape organization throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by a succession of families important to the social and economic history of the colony and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Lastly, the property possesses significance in the area of Archeology, Prehistoric, for its potential to provide important settlement and subsistence information about the pre-contact populations that inhabited the Charles River drainage before European contact.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

The historic integrity of Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1742-1972, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2026. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today, including natural systems and features, spatial organization, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small-scale features. Due to the site's lengthy period of significance, the landscape has undergone many changes, but extant landscape features that define the property today still represent a continuum that coherently reflects aspects of each historical period.

Extant features dating to the period of significance are numerous, including the defining spatial arrangements: the forecourt, carriage drive and service area, east lawn, and formal garden, as well as pedestrian circulation routes. Many of the original lilacs and the European linden to the east of the house remain from the historic period. The two buildings remain extant at the end of the period of significance, including the Longfellow house and carriage house/barn. The view from the forecourt towards the Charles River over Longfellow Memorial Park remains but is

partially obscured by vegetation. Remaining small-scale features on the site are limited to historic fences and gates, a reproduction of the formal garden sundial, and the reconstructed front balustrade.

Since 1972, the landscape has remained largely intact, with the exception of the decline of the formal garden and its associated features followed by its restoration. Other character-defining features, such as vegetation, have been retained or have been restored following damage or loss, as is the case with the elm-lined forecourt, planting buffer along the eastern property boundary, and the formal garden planting beds. The formal garden pergola and its associated benches were reconstructed in 2005-2006. New additions are limited to interpretive and wayfinding signage, flood lighting, chain-link perimeter security fencing, and utilities, all associated with the property's current function as a national historic site open to the public.

Condition:
The landscape at Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS meets the current definition for "good" condition. The landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance or deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site consists of one landscape.

Landscape Type:

Historic Designed Landscape

Historic Site

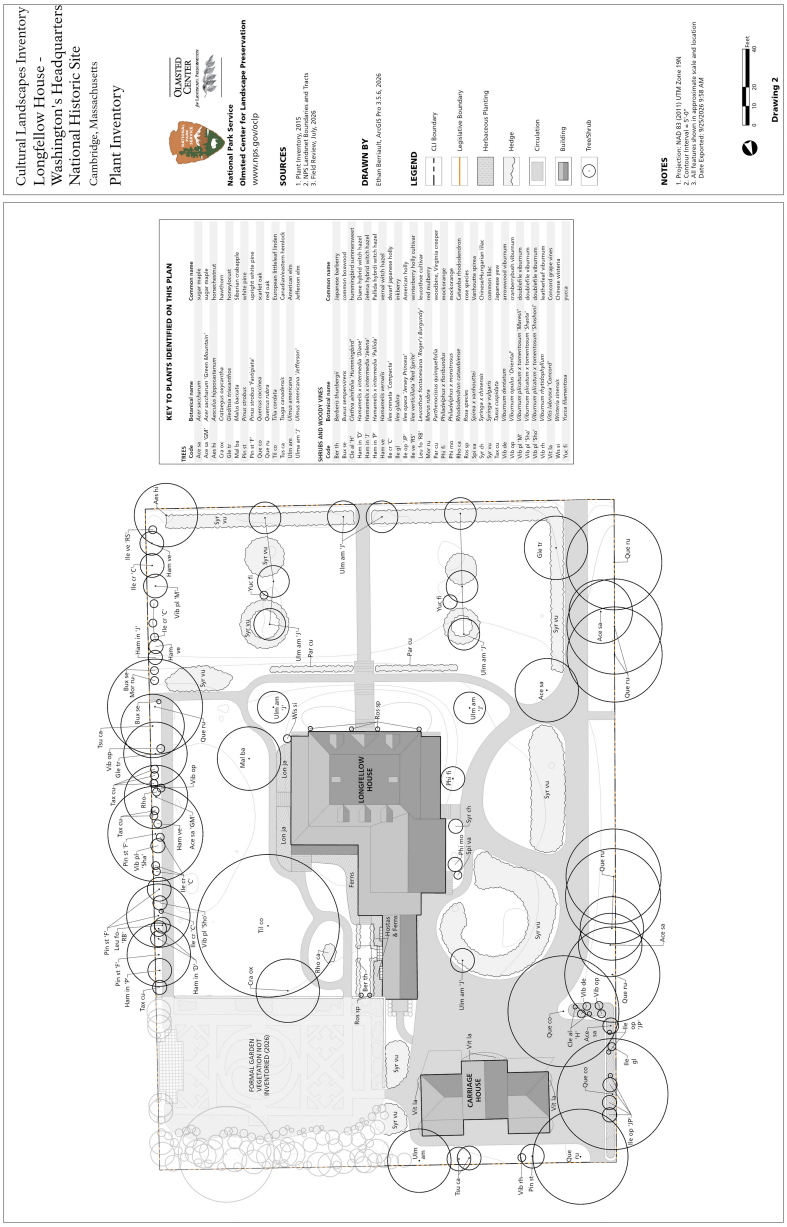
Other Names:

Other Name:	Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site	**Other Name Type:**	Current
Other Name:	Longfellow National Historic Site	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Craigie-Longfellow House	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Longfellow House	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Craigie House	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Washington's Headquarters	**Other Name Type:**	Both Current And Historic
Other Name:	Vassall House	**Other Name Type:**	Historic

Site Plan



Site map, 2026, 1 of 1.



Site map, 2026, 2 of 2.

Concurrence Information

Superintendent Acknowledgment:

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment: Yes

Park Superintendent Acknowledgment Date: 09/15/2015

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

The original CLI for the Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape was approved by the Superintendent on September 15, 2015. The report was developed by Christopher Beagan, Historical Landscape Architect at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, from an existing three volume Cultural Landscape Report for the property. Further research included a site visit with Jim Shea, former Site Manager at the park, and an updated plant inventory with Mona McKindley, Lead Gardener.

A Level C update for the site was approved by the Superintendent on June 23, 2025. This 2026 update to the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape CLI has been conducted at a Level A effort by Jeff Killion, Historical Landscape Architect at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, Boston, Massachusetts. Text was edited by Killion, and site maps were revised by Ethan Berriault, Seasonal Cartographer at the Olmsted Center. The park contact for this project is Jason Newman, Superintendent (jason_newman@nps.gov).

SUMMARY OF CLI REVISIONS, 2026

• The management category remains, "Must be Preserved and Maintained."
• The National Register chapter has been revised to reflect updated National Register documentation approved in 2025. New areas of significance are Social History, Conservation, Prehistoric Archeology, and Historic Non-Aboriginal Archeology. The Military, Literature, Architecture, and Landscape Architecture areas of significance from the 2015 CLI remain. The period of significance has been expanded from 1759-1928 to 1742-1972, beginning when enslaved people were first documented on Vassall property in Cambridge and ending when the park was established. In addition, the Post-Contact period of significance for Archeology is 1655-1900, and the Pre-Contact period of significance for Archeology is 4500 BP–1650 BP.
• The Chronology and Physical History chapter documents changes in the landscape since the original CLI was completed in 2015.
• Narratives in the Analysis and Evaluation chapter have been revised to reflect the new period of significance and current conditions. Feature evaluations are unchanged.
o A new feature, "View North from the Brattle Street Gate to the House" has been added to formally recognize this historic view.
• The overall landscape condition was evaluated as "Good" in 2015 and 2025. The proposed landscape condition evaluation for 2026 is "Good."
• Site plans and existing condition photographs are updated.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY
CONCURRENCE FORM

Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters Landscape
Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site

Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters Landscape, including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters Landscape is hereby approved and accepted.

Kate Harrison 9/15/2015

Superintendent, Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters NHS Date

Park concurrence form, September 15, 2015.

landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 29, 1962, under the theme of literature and the subtheme of poetry. Correspondence with the NHL program indicates that the Longfellow House, balustrade, steps, and terrace are contributing resources of the NHL.

On October 15, 1966, the property was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Preservation with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. On April 4, 1980, supporting documentation for the listing was entered in the National Register. The areas of significance were identified as architecture, literature, and military for the periods 1700-1799 and 1800-1899, but without specific dates of significance. The Longfellow House, the Carriage House and Barn, balustrade, Brattle Street fence, and front steps were identified as contributing resources. The documentation also described the two-acre grounds, and particularly the formal garden, as significant and "an essential part of the historic environment which is directly associated with the poet." However, specific garden features were not listed.

On June 30, 1983, the park was included within the Old Cambridge Historic District, the boundaries of which include most of Brattle Street, the Cambridge Common and its surroundings, Berkeley and Follen Streets, and parts of Elmwood Avenue, Craigie Street, Garden Street, and Harvard Yard. The areas of significance for the district were identified as architecture, commerce, community planning, education, and religion for the period c.1790 to 1970. Resources include sixty buildings, and the park was recognized for its association with General George Washington and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

On November 21, 1994, your office concurred with the National Park Service's evaluations of the park's historic resources, as part of the List of Classified Structures program update. In addition to concurring that the Longfellow House, Carriage House and Barn, balustrade, Brattle Street fence, and front steps were contributing resources, your office gave conditional concurrence of eligibility for two additional features – the formal garden fence and trellis, and the arbor/bench/lattice – contingent on extending the end date of the period of significance from 1899 to 1928, the year of Alice Longfellow's death, in a future revision to the site's National Register documentation. The drive/carriage loop was also identified as contributing, but the status of the path system was not evaluated pending further research. The sundial in the formal garden was determined as non-contributing.

On September 7, 2006, your office concurred with the National Park Service's evaluations of additional resources, based on the 1994 recommendations and subsequent park rehabilitation projects. The drive/carriage loop was determined eligible, while the pathways, formal garden sundial, and formal garden pergola were determined eligible if the period of significance was extended to 1928. Your office also reiterated that the formal garden fence and trellis were eligible if the period of significance was extended. To date, the site's National Register documentation has not been updated.

The enclosed CLI for Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the site's landscape retains integrity to the areas of military, literature, and architecture. As noted previously, 15 of the property's features compiled on the attached list

I concur with the National Park Service categorizations of the landscape resources and features at Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, as contributing and non-contributing.

_____ _____

Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Officer Date

NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters Landscape
Longfellow House Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site
List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Features
July 2015

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places. Features marked with a (*) were documented as part of the site's National Historic Landmark documentation on December 29, 1962. Features marked with a (#) were documented in the National Register on April 4, 1980. Features marked with a (+) were identified as contributing resources by the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office on November 21, 1994. Features marked with a (=) were identified as contributing resources by the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office on September 7, 2006.

Spatial Organization
- Forecourt Space
- East Lawn Space
- Carriage Drive
- Laundry Yard Space
- Service Area Space
- Formal Garden Space
- Alice's Garden Space

Topography
- * Front Terraces

Vegetation
- Elm Forecourt
- European linden at northeast corner of Longfellow House
- Lilac hedges along Brattle Street and carriage drive
- Formal garden beds
- Alice's garden beds

Circulation
- += Drive/Carriage Loop
- *#+ Front Steps
- = Front Entry Path
- = East Lawn Path System
- = Formal Garden Path System

Buildings and Structures
- *#+ Longfellow House
- #+ Carriage House and Barn

Views and Vistas

View south to Charles River from house front
Views within formal garden area

Small-Scale Features

+ Alice's Garden Arbor-Bench-Lattice
*#+ Front Terrace Balustrade
#+ Brattle Street Fence
+= Formal Garden Fence
= Formal Garden Trellis
= Formal Garden Sundial
Formal Garden Bench
= Formal Garden Pergola

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation

Concrete Pad, southeast corner of Carriage House
Concrete Walk to visitor entrance at northern end of Woodshed

Small-scale Features

Ground-mounted Flood Lights
Directional and Interpretive Signage

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 25, 2015

Frank Hays
Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship & Science
Northeast Region
National Park Service
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia PA 19106

RE: Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, Cambridge, MA.
MHC #RC.22024

Dear Mr. Hays:

Thank you for providing copies of the draft Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) 2015 for the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, dated July 7, 2015.

Your letter sought Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) concurrence with National Park Service determinations of eligibility for the CLI. We are unable to concur with all aspects of the CLI at the present time. The following is a summation of our opinions, pursuant to Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended).

The MHC noted in review of the draft report that it was stated on pages 16 and 81 that no ancient period Native American artifacts were found on the property. However, significant deposits and features of ancient Native American were identified at the property, about which the MHC staff offered the opinion that they met Criteria A and D.

These include intact pits and fire hearths and deposits of stone tools and tool manufacturing debris. Two radiocarbon dates were not fully reported, but were said to be 4500 BP and 1690 BP. The radiocarbon dates and the discovery of an Orient Fishtail style projectile point document land use and occupation of the property from the Late Archaic into the Woodland periods. Evidence of earlier and later occupations may have been found, but the reporting of investigations has not been provided to the MHC and may not have been completed.

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
(617) 727-8470 • Fax: (617) 727-5128
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

SHPO concurrence letter, September 25, 2015 (9 pages).

The MHC provided technical comments on draft archaeological reports for some investigations, but final reports and state archaeological inventory forms have not been provided. Some reporting of archaeological investigations was not provided to the MHC, such as the investigations conducted in 2004 for the formal garden restoration project.

The MHC provided comments on a revised draft Archeological Overview and Assessment (AOA), dated April 23, 2003, but have not received a final version of the AOA. An updated AOA that reviews and summarizes all the significant discoveries at the property would be very helpful, along with MHC archaeological inventory forms so that the important information can be integrated into the state inventory and the preservation planning documents. An updated AOA would provide important information to consider in revising the CLI. The MHC encourages the NPS to review the draft AOA and reports of subsequent investigations to identify and consider the ancient and historical period cultural features at the park for the CLI effort. The preservation of ancient period deposits and features at the property are especially notable in this urban setting, and provide an impressive time depth and interpretive dimension to a greater range of important cultural landscapes of the property.

To date, documentation has not been submitted to extend the period of significance from 1899 to 1928. In 1994, MHC agreed that the following resources would be contributing if the period of significance was extended from 1899 to 1928 (the year Alice Longfellow died): formal garden fence and trellis; arbor, bench, and lattice. In 2006, MHC agreed that the following resources would be contributing if the period of significance was extended: pathways; formal garden sundial; formal garden pergola; formal garden fence and trellis. MHC's opinion regarding the status of the resources remains as it was in 1994 and 2006.

Your letter included five bulleted points on which the NPS seeks the concurrence of the SHPO. Our comments on each of these bullets is as follows:

Bullet 1: We concur that The Longfellow National Historic Site (NR/NHL name) is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of literature and military and Criterion C in the area of architecture. The existing National Register documentation does not make the case for Criterion B, although it could be amended to do so for its association with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Bullet 2: Regarding Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture, we agree that the CLI makes the case for landscape architecture, specifically Colonial Revival design and the work of Martha Brookes Hutcheson and Ellen Shipman, but the National Register documentation would need to be updated to reflect that.

Bullet 3: The overall period of significance for the property remains 1759-1899 in the National Register documentation, but we agree that it could and should be extended when the nomination is updated. Rather than ending in 1925, with the formal garden's design by Ellen Shipman, we recommend that it end no earlier than 1928, the year of Alice Longfellow's death. (Note that the CLI sometimes ends the period of significance in 1925 and other times in 1928.) Alternatively, when the nomination is revised, the period of significance could be extended to the 50-year cut off, which at this writing is about the time that the property was recommended as a National Historic Site (1963 report, p.61 of CLI)

Bullet 4: While the property, including the overall landscape, retains integrity to its period of significance, this would need to be demonstrated in the revised and updated National Register documentation.

Bullet 5: In reviewing your proposed list of contributing and noncontributing resources, we concur that those resources that fall within the period of significance, or were restored to their historic appearance, continue to be contributing (Longfellow House, carriage house & barn, drive/carriage loop, front terrace & balustrade, front steps, Brattle Street fence). As noted above, those resources on the list that fall outside the period of significance could be contributing if the period of significance were extended. The CLI included additional features related to spatial organization as well as small-scale features that contribute to the significance and historic character of the landscape. The MHC agrees that these features, including the forecourt, east lawn, carriage drive, laundry yard, service area, formal garden, and Alice's garden, as well as the front terraces, elm forecourt, formal garden beds, Alice's garden beds, circulation features including the carriage loop, front steps, front entry path, east lawn path system, and formal garden path system, Alice's garden arbor-bench-lattice structure, front terrace balustrade, Brattle Street fence, formal garden fence, formal garden trellis, formal garden sundial, formal garden bench, and formal garden pergola are all contributing, providing that the National Register documentation is amended to reflect an expanded period of significance to 1928. Regarding vegetation and views and vistas, including the lilac hedges, European linden, and views south to the Charles River and within the formal garden, we agree that these are important character-defining features of the Longfellow property. However, these features are not countable in terms of the National Register documentation guidelines, and so we are unable to comment on whether they are contributing or noncontributing.

These comments are offered pursuant to section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). Please feel free to contact Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director, MHC, should you have any questions regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

Brona Simon

Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Cc: Myra Harrison, Superintendent, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site
Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

A.1.2. (NER-RS&S)

JUL 06 2015

Ms. Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125-3314

Dear Ms. Simon:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site. We seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of previously unevaluated resources and features identified in this CLI for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural

have been listed in or determined as eligible for listing in the National Register. The CLI identifies fifteen additional features related to spatial organization, vegetation, views and vistas, and small-scale features that also contribute to the significance and historic character of the site's landscape.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, National Register Information and the Statement of Significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

Based on the CLI, we seek to reconfirm our agreement on previously evaluated resources and your concurrence on the status of resources and features identified in this CLI:

- The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters property is nationally significant under Criterion A in the area of literature and military, Criterion B for its association with George Washington and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and Criterion C in the area of architecture.
- The property is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture for its Colonial Revival style formal garden guided by the work of landscape architects Martha Brookes Hutcheson and Ellen Shipman.
- The overall period of significance for the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters landscape is 1759-1925, beginning with the construction of the Longfellow House and ending when the formal garden design by Ellen Shipman was constructed.
- Overall, the landscape retains property retains integrity to its period of significance (1759-1925). Specifically, the property retains a high to moderate level of integrity relative to its later historical periods (associated with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Colonial Revival landscape design) and a moderate to low level of integrity relative to its earlier historical periods (associated with the Revolutionary War and George Washington).
- The categorization of contributing and non-contributing landscape characteristics and features (see attached list).

If you concur with these findings, we ask that you please sign on the space provided and return this letter to Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator (Address: National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 15 State Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02109). We would appreciate your response at your earliest convenience. Thank you for your attention to this inventory. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 617-223-5053.

Sincerely,

Frank Hays, Associate Regional Director
Resource Stewardship and Science
Northeast Region

Enclosure

cc:
Superintendent, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2025

Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site
Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape

Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site certifies the CLI update for Lewis Mountain, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI update for the Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is hereby approved and accepted.

JASON NEWMAN Digitally signed by JASON NEWMAN
Date: 2025.06.23 11:51:53 -04'00'

Superintendent, Longfellow House–Washington's Headquarters NHS Date

Park concurrence form, June 23, 2025.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Update Certification Form
2026

Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape
Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site

Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site certifies the CLI update for the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good – Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI update for the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape at Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site is hereby approved and accepted.

JILL TREBBE Digitally signed by JILL TREBBE Date: 2026.09.28 10:17:27 -04'00'

Acting Superintendent, Jill Trebbe

Superintendent, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Date

Park concurrence form, September 28, 2026.

Seq. No.	File Name	Caption

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Explanatory Narrative
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	06/23/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape CLI has been conducted at a Level C effort. See Landscape Documents in CRIS-CL for correspondences with park.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	09/28/2026	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes B and C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2026 update to the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape CLI has been conducted at a Level A effort.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State/Territory	County
Massachusetts	Middlesex County

Area (Acres): 1.98

Land Tract Number(s)

01-101

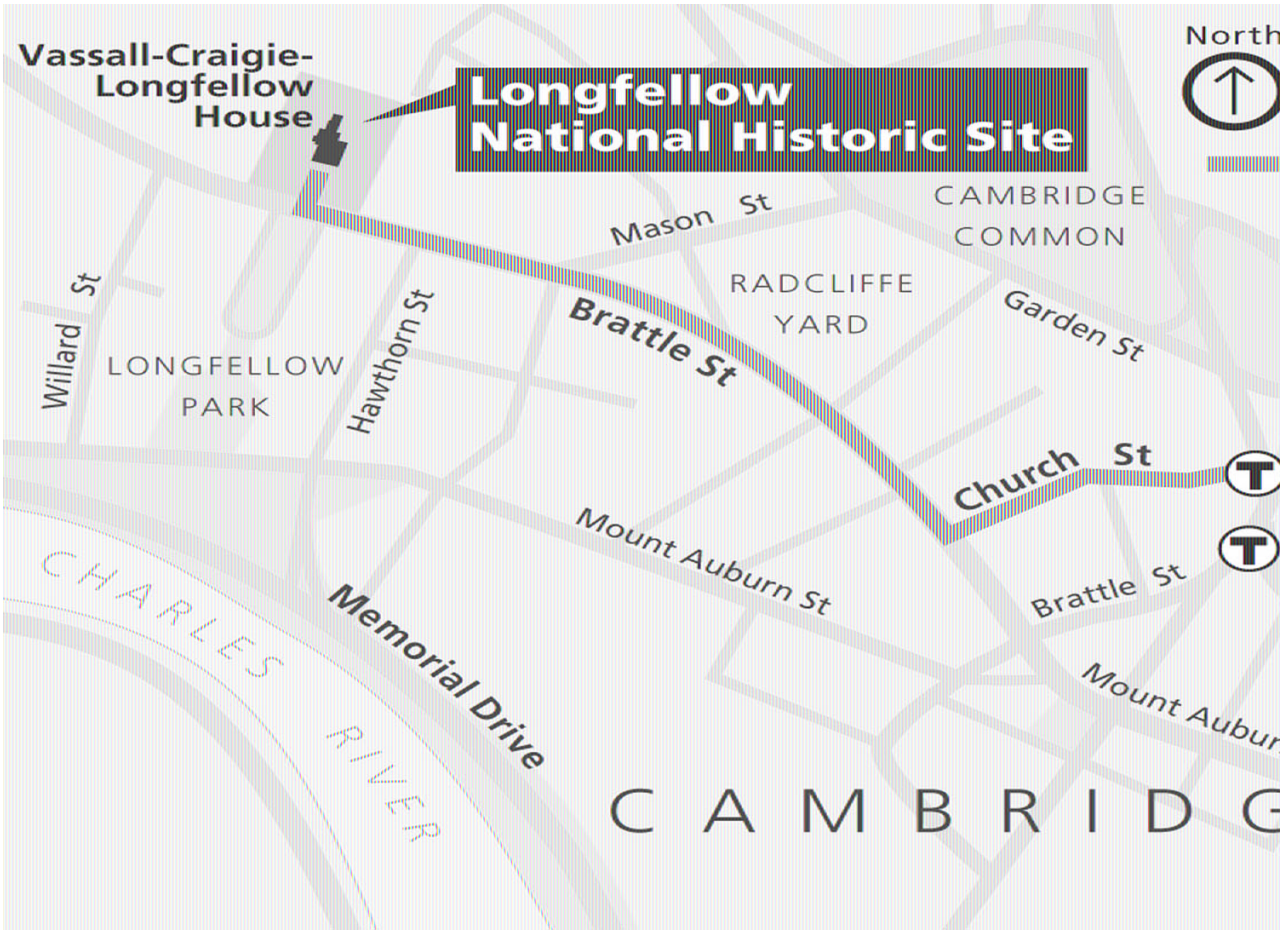
Boundary Description:

The 1.98-acre Longfellow House - Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site landscape is a rectangular parcel that fronts approximately 148 feet on the northern side of Brattle Street mid-block between Mason Street and Craigie Street and extends north/north-east, perpendicular to Brattle Street for approximately 346 feet.

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
	Point	42.37646	-71.126153	
	Point	42.377356	-71.125732	
	Point	42.37762	-71.12665	
	Point	42.376669	-71.127035	

Location Map:



Map of the Longfellow House-Washington's headquarters National Historic Site relative to the Harvard Square neighborhood and the Charles River. (Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS)

Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Physiographic context is the large-scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape such as hill, plateau, ravine, drumlin, etc. Middlesex County is located in the New England physiographic province of the Appalachian Highlands physiographic division, with most of the county lying within the Seaboard lowland section. The county is comprised of three major physiographic areas. The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site falls within the southeastern-most region, the Boston Basin. The Boston Basin extends from the escarpment that passes through Waltham, Arlington, and Malden, eastward to Boston Harbor. It is a nearly level plain, less than fifty feet above sea level, broken by drumlins that rise sharply to 150 feet above sea level. Heavy urbanization in this region has resulted in major alterations of the original topography and drainage patterns.

The bedrock of Middlesex County is a complex of numerous types of igneous and metamorphic rocks. Composition of bedrock in the county plays a role in soil color, soil texture, soil mineralogy, and the shape and percentage of coarse fragments. Often, soils reflect the type of bedrock from which glaciers stripped the soil's parent material. In the vicinity of the park, soils derived from schistose and phyllitic rocks and rocks of the Boston Basin typically have a high silt content, flat coarse fragments, and gray to olive-colored parent material. The site is located in the Charles watershed. The Charles River drains the southern part of Middlesex County, flowing east to Boston Harbor.

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Cultural context is the general human overlay on the physical form of the landscape. The Boston Basin area has been occupied by humans for at least the past 9,000 years. The Massachusett inhabited the region around present-day Greater Boston, extending from Salem to Cape Cod and inland as far as Worcester. The Massachusett were among the first Native Americans to encounter European settlers in New England. The settlers initially sought out terraces and lowlands of the southeastern part of the Middlesex County. Since the colonial era, the area of Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site has long been a location of European settlement. This site was one of favorable conditions of aspect, views, access, and drainage, in large part due to its proximity to the Charles River and Boston Harbor. By the mid-seventeenth century, land in the West End of Cambridge was settled and developed as farms, traversed by the Road to Watertown, which skirted the salt marshes of the Charles River. By the mid-eighteenth century, parcels were being consolidated along the road by such wealthy merchants as John Vassall. In the early nineteenth century, Andrew Craigie's death was followed by the subdivision of his large agricultural estate into smaller residential parcels. Ownership of the original Vassall house by Andrew Craigie, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and his heirs ushered an era of preservation, as these individuals sought to preserve the property's important historical associations with George Washington and the Revolutionary War. After Longfellow's death, the property was also preserved for its association with the poet himself.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Political context is the overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions, transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction (e.g., state, county, city, borough, or village). The park is located in the city of Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. Located in the southeastern portion of the county, Cambridge was the first established town in Middlesex County and is one of two county seats (Lowell is the other). The property is located within the Old Cambridge Historic District, a National Register and local (Cambridge Historical Commission) historic district that extends along Brattle Street in an irregular pattern and includes 215 contributing buildings and one other contributing site over an area of fifty-two acres.

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category:	Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance)
Management Category Date:	09/15/2015

Management Category Narrative:

As approved on September 15, 2015, the Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters NHS Landscape meets the Category A (High NPS Priority for Preservation and Maintenance) management category (formerly “Must be Preserved and Maintained”). As defined in the 2025 “Professional Procedures Guide” for the NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory program, the site meets two of the Category A criteria: it is nationally significant as defined by National Historic Landmark criteria and national significant as defined by National Register of Historic Places criteria.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: Cooperative Agreement

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Narrative:

A General Agreement exists between NPS and Friends of Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters, Inc., to fundraise, program, and produce publications in support of the property. This agreement is renewed on a 5-year term.

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative: Tract 01-101, 1.98 acres

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Legal Interest Narrative: The school holds a thirty-foot right-of-way easement along the western property boundary, within Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site. This easement dates to the sale of a portion of the original Longfellow property to the school after the death of Henry W. Longfellow's granddaughter, Alice Thorp, in 1955.

Located in managed wilderness?: No

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. Existing views from the house to the river, via Longfellow Park, contribute to the significance of the park. These lands were once part of the Longfellow property and specifically acquired to preserve the view between the house and river. Today this view is partially blocked.

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Eligibility: Listed

Eligibility Date: 4/29/2025 12:00:00 AM

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Individual

Classification: District

Documentation Narrative Description:

The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site was established in 1972. Prior to this the property was designated a National Historic Landmark (NHL) on December 29, 1962. There are two National Survey of Historic Site and Buildings forms associated with the NHL designation. An August 1961 form identified Theme XX, subtheme "Literature, Drama, and Music" and listed the acreage as 4 acres. A January 1968 form identified Themes X and XX, "Architecture (Colonial)" and "Literature" and listed the acreage as 1 acre. Correspondence with the NHL program indicates that the Longfellow House, balustrade, steps, and terrace are contributing resources of the NHL.

On October 15, 1966, the property was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. On April 4, 1980, supporting documentation for the listing was entered in the National Register. Significance for the 2-acre property was identified in the areas of Architecture, Literature, and Military for the periods 1700-1799 and 1800-1899, but without specific dates of significance. The Longfellow House, the Carriage House and Barn, balustrade, Brattle Street fence, and front steps were identified as contributing resources. The documentation also described the grounds, and particularly the formal garden, as significant and "an essential part of the historic environment which is directly associated with the poet." However, specific garden features were not listed.

On June 30, 1983, the park was included within the Old Cambridge Historic District, the boundaries of which include most of Brattle Street, the Cambridge Common and its surroundings, Berkeley and Follen Streets, and parts of Elmwood Avenue, Craigie Street, Garden Street, and Harvard Yard. Significance for the
52-acre district was identified in the areas of Architecture, Commerce, Community Planning, Education, and Religion for the period c.1790 to 1970. As one of sixty buildings, the park was recognized for its association with General George Washington and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. On June 23, 1986, the property was listed as a local historic district of the same name and extent.

On November 21, 1994, the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with NPS evaluations of the park's historic resources, as part of the NPS Historic Structures Inventory (formerly List of Classified Structures) update. In addition to concurring that the Longfellow House, Carriage House and Barn, balustrade, Brattle Street fence, and front steps were contributing resources, the SHPO gave conditional concurrence of eligibility for two additional features – the formal garden fence and trellis, and the arbor/bench/lattice – contingent on extending the end date of the period of significance from 1899 to 1928, the year of Alice Longfellow's death, in a future revision to the site's National Register documentation. The drive/carriage loop was also identified as contributing, but the status of the path

system was not evaluated pending further research. The sundial in the formal garden was evaluated as noncontributing.

On September 7, 2006, the SHPO concurred with NPS evaluations of additional park resources, based on the 1994 recommendations and subsequent park rehabilitation projects. The drive/carriage loop was determined eligible, while the pathways, formal garden sundial, and formal garden pergola were determined eligible if the period of significance was extended to 1928. The SHPO also reiterated that the formal garden fence and trellis were eligible if the period of significance was extended.

On September 25, 2015, the SHPO concurred with the findings of the park's Cultural Landscape Inventory. Significance for the 1.98-acre property was identified at the national level in the areas of Literature and Military, at the national level for associations with George Washington and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and at the local level in the area of Landscape Architecture. The period of significance was identified as 1759-1925, beginning with construction of the Longfellow House and ending when the formal garden designed by Ellen Shipman was constructed. The SHPO recommended that the period should end in 1928, the year of Alice Longfellow's death, or alternatively to the 50-year cutoff date (1965). The CLI was revised to reflect the 1928 end date. The SHPO agreed with the list of contributing and noncontributing features, which included many garden features (see Analysis and Evaluation chapter).

On April 29, 2025, updated National Register documentation for the park was approved by the Keeper of the National Register. Significance for the 1.98-acre property was identified at the national level in the areas of Architecture, Conservation, Landscape Architecture, Literature, and Military; at the state level in the areas of Archeology (Historic–Non-Aboriginal), Archeology (Prehistoric), and Social History. The primary period of significance was listed as 1742-1972, when enslaved people were first documented on Vassall property in Cambridge, and ending when the park was established. (Note: the cover sheet of the documentation incorrectly states 1759). Archeological periods of significance were identified as 1655–1900 (Historic–Non-Aboriginal) and 4500 B.P.–1650 B.P. (Archeology, Prehistoric). Numerous landscape features were identified as contributing resources (see Analysis and Evaluation chapter).

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the "CLI Professional Procedures Guide," the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is adequately documented based on the recent 2025 National Register documentation and previous correspondences with the Massachusetts SHPO. The documented periods and areas of significance encompass park resources. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the property is considered "Listed- Documented."

Pre-CLI Documentation Status: Listed - Documented

CLI SHPO/THPO Concurrence Date: 4/29/2025 12:00:00 AM

CLI Concurrence Narrative:

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape possesses national and state level significance under National Register Criterion A in the areas of Military, Conservation, and Social History; under Criterion B in the areas of Literature, Military History, and Conservation; under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture; and under Criteria on D in the areas of Prehistoric Archeology and Historic–Non-Aboriginal Archeology. The overall period of significance is 1742-1972, beginning when enslaved people were first documented on Vassall property in Cambridge and ending when the park was established.

CRITERION A

Military History:
The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is significant at the national level under Criterion A in the area of Military History as the headquarters of General George Washington during the Siege of Boston (April 19, 1775–March 17, 1776), the first military action of the American Revolution (1775–1783) conducted by the Continental Army under Washington's command. The period of significance for Military History is 1775–1776, corresponding to Washington's occupation of the Longfellow House.

The Second Continental Congress appointed Washington Commander-in-Chief of the army on June 16, 1775. On July 2, he arrived in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where the American forces that had recently fought the Battle of Bunker Hill were arrayed against the British Army under Major General Sir William Howe. After a brief stay at the Harvard College president's house, Washington moved to the abandoned home of British Loyalist John Vassall (1738–1797), which served as his headquarters and residence for the remainder of the Siege of Boston. During the 8½ months that he spent at the Vassall house, Washington took the first steps toward transforming the Continental Army from a poorly trained and loosely coordinated band of militias and citizen-soldiers into the effective fighting force that ultimately prevailed over the professional British army. From his headquarters, Washington issued orders to establish discipline and structure in the army, dealt with myriad logistical and supply problems exacerbated by a parsimonious Congress, corresponded with subordinate generals of army units in other theaters, and devised the plans that would eventually force the British to abandon Boston. The essential role that the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House filled in supporting Washington's activities during this critical juncture of American history ranks it among the most significant of all the places associated with Washington's career as the commander of the Continental Army. The negotiation skills that Washington learned in his dealings with Congress during this period would later serve him well when he accepted the call to serve as the first president of the United States. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 18-19)

Conservation:
The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is significant at the national level under Criterion A in the area of Conservation for its prominent role in the historic house museum and preservation movements. The period of significance for Conservation begins in 1837, when Henry chose to rent rooms in the house where Washington had stayed; encompasses his and Alice's lifelong preservation of the property; and ends in 1972 with the establishment of Longfellow National Historic Site as the culmination of efforts by the Longfellow House Trust to preserve the property as a public site.

Henry Wadsworth and Fanny Longfellow's preservation of the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House as the site of George Washington's headquarters during the Siege of Boston was an early manifestation of the national veneration for the country's first president that emerged by the mid-nineteenth century. Henry's writings and his promotion of the house's history contributed to the resurgent public interest in colonial history that characterized the American Colonial Revival and house museum movements of the late nineteenth century. Those movements culminated in the subsequent preservation by daughter Alice Mary Longfellow and the Longfellow House Trust of the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House for its associations with both Washington and Longfellow. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 31-32)

A national movement to acknowledge contributions of the Revolutionary War generation in establishing the American Republic took root during the first half of the nineteenth century. During the "Era of Good Feelings" (1817–1825), a period characterized by a decline in political factionalism and a rise in patriotic nationalism, historical interest increased in the Revolutionary War and in George Washington as the ultimate American hero. The "cult of Washington" began even before his death in 1799. The Marquis de Lafayette's triumphant and well-publicized tour of the nation in 1824–1825 and a growing appreciation for the veterans of the war, whose numbers by that time were rapidly dwindling, contributed to the Revolution's placement at the forefront of public memory by the semi-centennial celebration of American independence in 1826. The growing appreciation for the sacrifices of those who fought to secure Americans' liberties contributed to the fixation of public memory on the heroes of the Revolution and resulted in the first efforts to commemorate and preserve places associated with their deeds. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 32)

Social History:
Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is significant at the state level under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with and potential to yield additional information about the history of slavery in Massachusetts, particularly the period following the American Revolution when the Massachusetts government sold confiscated Loyalist property and was forced to adjudicate claims by formerly enslaved persons who had been left behind when their Loyalist owners fled. The period of significance for Social History begins in 1742, when enslaved people were first documented on Vassall property in Cambridge, and ends in 1781, when the formerly enslaved individuals left the Vassall property after the Massachusetts government sold it.

The Vassall family derived its fortune from sugar plantations it had established in the West Indies beginning in 1648. The profitability of the plantations depended on enslaved labor, and when members of the family removed to Massachusetts, they brought enslaved persons to work as laborers on their estates and engaged in the trading of enslaved persons. When Loyalists John and Elizabeth Vassall left Cambridge in 1774, they left their estate in the care of enslaved persons Anthony or Antony (Tony) and Cuba Vassall. Tony and Cuba remained as caretakers of the estate throughout the Revolutionary War and, after they gained freedom, were among those former enslaved persons who filed for financial support from the Commonwealth. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 39)

CRITERION B

Literature (Henry Wadsworth Longfellow):
The Longfellow-Washington’s Headquarters NHS Landscape is significant at the national level under Criterion B in the area of Literature as the residence of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of the most popular American poets of the nineteenth century, for more than half his life, from 1837 to his death in 1882. The period of significance for Literature is 1837–1882, corresponding to Longfellow’s tenure on the property.

Longfellow garnered an extensive readership in the United States and abroad in his lifetime as the author of such iconic works as “The Song of Hiawatha” (1855) and “Paul Revere’s Ride” (1860). Since then, his work has been translated into multiple languages, adapted into plays and, before radio and television, was recited at firesides as a form of entertainment. Some phrases have become well-known phrases, such as “footprints in the sands of time” and “music is the universal language of mankind.” Even during his lifetime, children committed his poetry to memory as part of classroom lessons. Longfellow produced most of his works in the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House. Other National Register-listed properties associated with Longfellow are the Wadsworth-Longfellow House10 (NHL 1962, NR 1966, NRIS 66000090) where he was raised in Portland, Maine; the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Monument (NR 1990, NRIS 90000580) in Portland, Maine; and the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Memorial (NR 2007, NRIS 07001056) in Washington, D.C. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 25-26)

Military History (George Washington):
The Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters NHS Landscape is significant at the national level under Criterion B in the area of Military History for its association with George Washington. The period of significance for Military History is 1775–1776, corresponding to Washington’s occupation of the Longfellow House.

The property reflects its association with Washington through the house and its location on Brattle Street, overlooking the Charles River. Washington’s (1732-1799) association with the property began on July 15, 1775, when he first took residence in the house, and extended until April 4, 1776. He was joined in the house by his generals, who also used it as their headquarters. From December 1775 to March 1776, Washington was joined by his wife Martha. General Washington planned and executed the siege of Boston, the march on Quebec, the new organization of the Continental Army, and the occupation of Dorchester Heights. It was also from his Cambridge headquarters General Washington wrote more than 300 letters and read Thomas Paine’s Common Sense (1776) for the first time, which presented and widely disseminated a powerful argument to American colonists for independence from British rule. (CLI 2015: 34 -35)

Conservation (Alice Mary Longfellow):

The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is significant at the national level under Criterion B in the area of Conservation as the lifelong residence of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's daughter Alice Mary Longfellow (1850–1928), who helped to cultivate the historic preservation movement in America through her philanthropy and mentoring. The period of significance for Conservation begins in 1837, when Henry chose to rent rooms in the house where Washington had stayed; encompasses his and Alice's lifelong preservation of the property; and ends in 1972 with the establishment of Longfellow National Historic Site as the culmination of efforts by the Longfellow House Trust to preserve the property as a public site.

In addition to advocating for the preservation of the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House, Alice participated in the pioneering nineteenth-century preservation effort at Mount Vernon and supported influential preservation organizations in New England including SPNEA and the Cambridge Historical Society. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 36-37)

CRITERION C

Architecture:
The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is significant at the national level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an outstanding example of Georgian architecture. The period of significance for Architecture begins with the construction of the Longfellow House in 1759 and extends to 1928 to encompass all alterations to the property made during Alice Longfellow's residency.

The architectural form of the house has survived for over 250 years with only one major campaign of alterations, which took place roughly over a two-year span, c.1791-1793. There have been no subsequent additions or alterations to the house that have significantly compromised its architectural features. Thus, a continuum of architectural integrity can be traced from 1793 to present. Although modernization of the house gained momentum in Alice Longfellow's tenure, these changes did not compromise the building's historic features. (CLI 2015: 35)

The Longfellow house is an outstanding example of the New England High Georgian style, which combines features of English Palladian classicism and an old-fashioned basic building form onto which they are grafted. Originally constructed in 1759 by Col. John Vassall, the house was modified by Andrew Craigie with the addition of covered porches (piazzas) to the east and west sides of the house in the early 1790s. Craigie also constructed an ell to the rear of the house in the early 1790s. In 1844, Henry W. Longfellow added some Greek Revival detailing to the mansion as well, including balustrades to the widow's walk and piazzas. He also added a billiard room to the Longfellow-era woodshed in 1858 (removed in 1905). (CLI 2015: 35)

In the wake of the Centennial celebrations in Philadelphia in 1876 and the subsequent emergence of the Colonial Revival style, the house became a touchstone of the Colonial Revival movement. As one of the best-known homes in nineteenth century America, second only to Mount Vernon, representations included its appearance as the Massachusetts building at the Atlanta Cotton States and International Exposition in 1895, in the 1910s and 1920s as the ready-built "Magnolia" model in the Sears, Roebuck and Company catalog, and as a design prototype for numerous replicas across the nation. For its associations with Washington and Longfellow, the house became an American icon. (CLI 2015: 35)

The Carriage House/Barn was built for the Longfellows in 1844 to replace an earlier barn and gardener's house that had been destroyed by fire in 1840. Longfellow had the carriage drive extended to the carriage house after the building's completion. George M. Dexter (1802–1872), a Harvard-educated and Boston-based architect and engineer, designed the building, which exhibits Classical details and is typical of outbuildings depicted in mid-nineteenth-century pattern books such as Andrew Jackson Downing's "The Architecture of Country Houses" (1850). Dexter traveled extensively in Europe and trained in engineering under Loammi Baldwin and in architecture under Alexander Parris before starting his own practice. His domestic architecture was balanced, displayed a hierarchical arrangement of Classical decoration, and was most often Italianate or Gothic Revival in style. He was a founding member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and became its president in 1850. In 1852, he became the president of the Vermont and Canada Railroad. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 49)

Landscape Architecture:
The Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is significant at the national level under Criterion C in the area of Landscape Architecture as an outstanding example of a Colonial Revival garden, with important ties to the Colonial Revival movement and the nascent historic preservation movement. The period of significance for Landscape Architecture begins with the construction of the Longfellow House in 1759 and extends to 1928 to encompass all alterations to the property made during Alice Longfellow's residency.

The Longfellow House formal garden retains a high level of integrity relative to its Colonial Revival improvements from 1904-1925, guided by the work of landscape architects Martha Brookes Hutcheson and Ellen Shipman. Following an extensive rehabilitation in 2005-2006, the formal garden is in excellent condition and represents an outstanding example of Colonial Revival style garden design on a property that is historically noted as an icon of the Colonial Revival movement. The site also includes a small Colonial Revival garden with associated arbor-bench-trellis arch structure, designed by noted architect Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr. for his cousin Alice Longfellow in 1905. (CLI 2015: 35-36)

The Longfellow property achieved prominence as a work of Colonial Revival landscape architecture during the stewardship of Alice Longfellow, Henry W. Longfellow's daughter. Alice Longfellow (1850-1928) was a participant in both the historic preservation and the Colonial Revival movements. In 1880, at the age of thirty, she was nominated to be the second Vice-Regent for Massachusetts at the annual Council of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the first private historic preservation group in the United States organized in 1853 to purchase, preserve, and restore Washington's home as an icon of the colonial era. In 1910, Alice was also elected to be one of two Massachusetts Vice-Presidents for the newly formed Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (now Historic New England), the lifework of her cousin, William Sumner Appleton Jr. Alice Longfellow was also a member of the Council of the Cambridge Historical Society from 1905 until 1924. As a progressive philanthropist, Alice is credited with perpetuating the family tradition of preservation of the Longfellow house and its grounds after her father's death, actively initiated with an "Indenture of Trust" established in 1913 by Henry W. Longfellow's children. (CLI 2015: 36)

The Colonial Revival movement is widely attributed to the outgrowth interest in colonial scenes presented at the centennial celebration of American independence. Although the movement's roots are often attributed to the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876, some have argued that the cultural roots of the movement can be found in the imagery of Americana captured by writers such as Longfellow, Emerson, and Hawthorne. The Longfellow property was an icon of the Colonial Revival movement for its colonial origins, which manifest themselves in the landscape with the mansion's prominent terracing, siting, and elm-lined forecourt. The landscape is also an important example of the Colonial Revival style, with improvements commissioned by Alice Longfellow and aimed at enhancing the colonial character of the property. Her 1904-1925 landscape improvements can thus be seen in two lights: as an expression of her duty to preserve the colonial home and grounds for their important historical associations and as an expression of her personal taste and interest in the Colonial Revival style. (CLI 2015: 36)

The Longfellow formal garden has its roots in an 1847 design by English landscape gardener Richard Dolben, who designed a three-part formal garden for Henry W. Longfellow. Dolben's design consisted of a central, circular bed, thirty feet wide, with smaller beds at either end. The three-part form he created is still evident in the plan of the garden today. Subsequent to Dolben's design and her father's death, Alice Longfellow hired Martha Brookes Hutcheson and Ellen Shipman, two nationally known landscape architects, to redesign the garden in the Colonial Revival style. The Colonial Revival garden was widely publicized during Alice Longfellow's lifetime by noted garden authors, including Alice Morse Earle and Louise Shelton. The skillful handling of spatial organization, architectural features, and plant material, and the continuity of approach, make this a significant example of early Colonial Revival landscape. By their very nature, such gardens are ephemeral. The Longfellow formal garden remains an important, well-documented, and well-rehabilitated example of this garden style, with contributions from two nationally significant designers. (CLI 2015: 36)

Martha Brookes (nee Brown) Hutcheson.
Martha Brookes Hutcheson (1871-1959) was responsible for the 1904-1905 expansion of the Dolben-designed garden, with the addition of new planting beds to the south and west of the garden, the layout and planting of box-lined parterre beds, layout of paths, and the addition of fences, gates, and a massive

pergola. Her design for the Longfellow house garden is illustrated in her book, “The Spirit of the Garden” (1923). It is her only project she described with “Colonial motive.” Her work reflects closely the theme in revival gardens, which correlates with the Longfellow family’s interest in colonial history. The formal garden reflects the work of a master, and its design represents the high artistic ideals of the Colonial Revival movement. (CLI 2015: 36)

Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr.
Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr. (1854-1934), or Waddy, as he was known, was Henry W. Longfellow’s nephew and an architect who studied at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris before working as a senior draftsman in the office of Henry Hobson Richardson. In 1905, he designed a simple boxwood-lined garden and associated structure with seat for his cousin Alice, which were installed on the east side of the woodshed, on the former footprint of the billiard room. (Although unsubstantiated, it is also suggested that Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr. collaborated with Martha Brookes Hutcheson on the design of the formal garden pergola.) (CLI 2015: 36-37)

Ellen Shipman.
Ellen Shipman (1869-1950) was responsible for the subsequent 1925 rehabilitation of the formal garden planting beds, which struggled to thrive after their 1905 planting by Hutcheson. Although Shipman’s design retained Hutcheson’s bed layout, her planting design changed the character of the interior beds from a romantic, overgrown perennial flower garden to a garden with vertical structure with the addition of standard wisteria, conifers, and fruit trees. Her work at the Longfellow house is documented in three plans in the park’s archives. Alice Longfellow and her gardener, Michael Gaffney, also saved the garden receipts that document purchases of new plants for the garden in the mid-1920s. The composition of the garden today reflects its character following Shipman’s improvements. (CLI 2015: 37)

CRITERION D

Archeology: Historic–Non-Aboriginal and Prehistoric
Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters NHS Landscape is significant at the national level under Criterion D in the areas of Historic–Non-Aboriginal Archeology and Prehistoric Archeology. The Post-Contact period of significance for Archeology is 1655-1900, and the Pre-Contact period of significance for Archeology is Late Archaic to Middle Woodland (4500 BP-1650 BP).

Machine and archeological excavations have uncovered structural and landscape features that make the property eligible for listing in the National Register for its demonstrated and potential ability to yield new and significant information about the historical occupation of the property ca. 1655–1900. Archeological research also has provided information about the property’s pre-contact occupation that provides greater time depth, interpretive diversity, and significance to its human use before European contact. Given the property-wide distribution of the archeological data, the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House Site boundaries are coterminous with the property boundaries. For detailed archeological information refer to the park’s 2025 National Register documentation or contact park staff. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 53)

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criterion A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criterion B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

Significance Criterion C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

Significance Criterion D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1759 - CE 1928

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Georgian (1730-1780)	
Expressing Cultural Values	Landscape Architecture	Colonial Revival Landscape Design	
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	OTHER	

Time Period: CE 1742 - CE 1781

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Creating Social Institutions and Movements	Ways of Life	Slavery And Plantation Life	

Time Period: CE 1775 - CE 1776

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	The American Revolution	Politics and Diplomacy	

Time Period: CE 1837 - CE 1882

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Literature	Poetry	

Time Period: CE 1837 - CE 1972

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	Formative Years, 1796 -1858: The Destruction Of Green Springs To The Saving Of Mount Vernon And The Hasbrouck House, Patriotism And Preservation	
Transforming the Environment	Historic Preservation	The Federal Government Enters The Movement	

Time Period: CE 1655 - CE 1900

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	Prehistoric Archeology: Topical Facets	Prehistoric Settlements And Settlement Patterns	

Time Period: BCE 4500 - BCE 1650

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	Development of the Colonies	Physical Development	

National Register Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Prehistoric

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Conservation

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Landscape Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Literature

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Social History

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site
NRIS ID:	66000049
Primary Certification Date:	04/29/2025
NRIS Name:	Longfellow National Historic Site
NRIS ID:	66000049
Primary Certification Date:	04/04/1980
NRIS Name:	Old Cambridge Historic District
NRIS ID:	64000275
Primary Certification Date:	06/30/1983

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	CAM.AE
Name:	Longfellow National Historic Site
Listed Date:	06/30/1983
Narrative:	Longfellow National Historic Site is included in the Old Cambridge Historic District designated a local historic district on June 23, 1986 and part of the Cambridge Multiple Resource Area (NR MRA 06/30/1983).

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark? Yes

Theme:

Contributing: Individual

NHL ID: 01191879

NHL URL:

Date: 12/29/1962

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

Theme XX: “Literature”
Theme X: “Architecture (Colonial)”

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1746	Purchased/Sold	John Vassall purchases fifty acres with a barn between King's Highway and the Charles River from Amos Marrett.
CE 1747	Purchased/Sold	John Vassall purchases six and one-half acres with a dwelling house to the north of King's Highway from Amos Marrett.
CE 1747	Land Transfer	John Vassall dies and leaves portions of the two properties, totaling eight and one-half acres, to his son, John Vassall, Esq.
CE 1759	Built	John Vassall, Esq. builds a mansion on the six and one-half acre lot.
CE 1771	Land Transfer	John Vassall, Esq. exchanges drainage rights with his neighbor, John Hastings, to drain his meadow through Hasting's lot.
CE 1774 - 1776	Inhabited	John Vassall, Esq. and his family flee Cambridge for Boston until 1776, when they sail for Halifax and on to England.
CE 1775	Inhabited	By early summer, General Glover and his Marblehead Battalion establish their headquarters at the Vassall house.
CE 1775	Inhabited	On July 15, General George Washington relocates to the Vassall mansion from the president's house at Harvard College.
CE 1776	Inhabited	On April 4, Washington vacates the Vassall mansion.
CE 1779	Land Transfer	The Vassall estate is forfeited and confiscated by an act of the General Court. At this time, the estate consists of a mansion house with a necessary house, a wood house, barns, as well as a farm house to the east of the gardens.
CE 1781	Purchased/Sold	Nathaniel Tracy purchases the Vassall estate, which is assimilated into a forty-seven-acre parcel for the sale.
CE 1781 - 1786	Purchased/Sold	Around this time, Nathaniel Tracy expands the estate by adding four parcels, totaling twenty-five acres.
CE 1786	Purchased/Sold	Tracy sells his 140-acre property to Thomas Russell.
CE 1791	Built	By this year, a dam and summerhouse stand on the property.
CE 1791 - 1792	Planted	Andrew Craigie decides to settle in Cambridge and begins negotiating the purchase of the former Vassall house. He arranges for a variety of trees, shrubs, and fowl to be sent to his "farm at Cambridge." Letters from 1791 also discuss the planting of elm trees and other forest trees on the road to Fresh Pond.
CE 1792	Purchased/Sold	Russell sells his 140-acre estate to Andrew Craigie.
CE 1792	Planted	In March, Craigie receives 108 fruit trees of different varieties from the Prince Nursery on Long Island.
CE 1792	Built	Craigie builds a new wood-frame house and by this year a greenhouse is standing.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1790 - 1795	Built	In this period, twelve-foot-wide piazzas are added to the east and west sides of the mansion. A few years later, the east piazza is extended to wrap around the east and northsides of the new ell to the north of the mansion.
CE 1794 - 1795	Built	Craigie's account books document extensive purchases of cedar rails and posts, suggesting that he may have fenced the property.
CE 1815	Altered	By this year, Craigie replaces the central portion of the wall along the south (Brattle Street) side of the property with a wood fence in a Chinese Chippendale pattern.
CE 1819	Land Transfer	Andrew Craigie dies, leaving the six and one-half-acre property with a barn, coach house with building attached, granary, greenhouse, farmhouse, and a workshop. Mrs. Craigie is allotted the mansion and grounds, the adjoining "close," or meadow, the meadow across the street and a separate thirteen-acre lot with the mansion of Benjamin Lee – a total of ninety-five and one-half acres.
CE 1837	Inhabited	In August, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow first rents a room from Elizabeth Craigie.
CE 1839	Maintained	Around this time, the elm trees on the property are infested with cankerworms. Longfellow tars the trunks in an attempt to protect the trees.
CE 1840	Planted	By this year, a plan shows ten trees defining a forecourt in front of the house.
CE 1840	Destroyed	On April 6, the gardener's cottage and principal stable burn.
CE 1841	Land Transfer	Mrs. Craigie dies and her property is subdivided. The property with the Craigie house is allotted to the Fosters. Joseph Worcester, who purchases thirty-two acres west of the house, including the "close," with the pond and island, rents the Craigie house until 1844. Worcester occupies the western half of the house and sublets the eastern portion to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
CE 1841 - 1843	Damaged	Around this time, Worcester cuts the tops of the elms in front of the house in response to the ongoing canker worm blight.
CE 1843	Inhabited	On July 13, Longfellow marries Frances ElizabethAppleton. They first settle into the rooms rented at the Craigie house.
CE 1843	Planned	In the autumn of this year, Longfellow lays out the "linden avenue" along eastern side of the property with the help of his brother Samuel.
CE 1843	Purchased/Sold	In the fall of this year, Nathan Appleton purchases the Craigie house and five acres, giving this to his daughter eighteen months later, presumably as a wedding gift.
CE 1843	Purchased/Sold	In November, Appleton also purchases a four-acre parcel on the south side of Brattle Street to preserve the view of the Charles River from the Craigie house.
CE 1844	Planted	In the spring of this year, Longfellow plants a lilac hedge along the fence in front of the house.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1844	Planted	In April, Longfellow plants an acacia (locust) hedgerow along the eastern property boundary and fruit trees in a quincunx pattern on the “intervening lawn” between the house and the eastern property boundary.
CE 1844	Planned	Longfellow designs a flower garden in the form of a lyre, builds a rustic seat in an old apple tree, and lays out roses under the library windows. Later this year, Longfellow plants boxwood along the flower garden beds.
CE 1844	Built	Longfellow replaces the carriage house, probably with the help of architect George M. Dexter.
CE 1845	Planted	Longfellow plants the wooded path along the northern property boundary.
CE 1847	Planted	Richard Dolben redesigns the flower garden into a three-part parterre garden with a rose-window pattern at its center, integrating modifications to a pre-existing trellis and gate that extend eastward from the woodshed.
CE 1849	Purchased/Sold	Longfellow purchases the four-acre parcel on the south side of Brattle Street from his father-in-law.
CE 1849 - 1870	Purchased/Sold	Longfellow continues to purchase land adjacent to his property with the dual purpose of preserving his view of the river and creating an inheritance for his children.
CE 1852	Planted	In the fall, Longfellow plants a privet hedge around the garden.
CE 1859	Planted	Longfellow plants seventy-five fruit trees, including twenty-five pear trees.
CE 1872	Built	A balustrade is added to the crest of the lower terrace, which by 1880 is covered in woodbine.
CE 1880 - 1920	Planted	Groundcover is planted to the north of the formal garden area, including English ivy and lily of the valley.
CE 1882	Built	The central stairway to the east piazza is constructed.
CE 1882 - 1904	Maintained	During this period, there is no evidence of major changes to the grounds of the mansion after Longfellow’s death in1882.
CE 1883	Land Transfer	Longfellow’s children donate two acres opposite the house to the south to the Longfellow Memorial Association for a memorial, accompanied by a design plan.
CE 1887	Designed	Charles Eliot designs a memorial park across the street called Longfellow Park, with two distinct parts.
CE 1887 - 1889	Built	A portion of Eliot’s plan is installed as the memorial, although paths are realigned and a stone staircase designed by C. Howard Walker replaces Eliot’s design for an exedra.
CE 1888	Land Transfer	Longfellow’s children donate a small triangular lot between Mt. Auburn Street and the Charles River to the Longfellow Memorial Association.
CE 1888	Land Transfer	Longfellow’s children partition the remainder of the estate amongst themselves. Eleven lots, including the house and Longfellow Memorial Association land, are created within the boundaries of the original estate.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1904	Designed	Alice Longfellow hires Martha Brookes Brown (later Hutcheson) to work on the formal garden, replanting the box, expanding the garden with a new bed on the western edge and expanding the southern border, and installing gates, fences, and an arbor.
CE 1904	Moved	Longfellow's pediment and trellis is relocated from an east-west orientation to a north-south orientation.
CE 1904	Built	A three-foot-high latticework fence replaces the trellis on the east lawn.
CE 1905	Designed	The billiard room is removed from the woodshed and Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr. designs a simple garden with small sitting area beneath a shelter for his sister Alice.
CE 1907	Purchased/Sold	Longfellow Park is conveyed to the city of Cambridge.
CE 1912	Memorialized	The Longfellow Memorial Association hires Daniel French to design a monument (sculpture) to Longfellow. The monument is sited on a new stone retaining wall flanked by two sets of stairs designed by architect Henry Bacon that replaced the original stone staircase. At the base of the stairs, landscape architect Paul Frost designs a sunken memorial garden.
CE 1913	Inhabited	A trust is established and an indenture permits Alice Longfellow to reside in the house and gives her responsibility for the upkeep of the house, furnishings, and grounds.
CE 1916	Preserved	The fence, arbor, and trellis are repainted and repaired.
CE 1922	Planted	Elm trees and a horse chestnut are replaced and the soil is treated to improve conditions.
CE 1923	Preserved	The arbor is repainted.
CE 1925	Designed	Ellen Shipman completes a planting plan for the Longfellow garden to rehabilitate the existing garden.
CE 1925	Built	A bench is sited on the northern side of the formal garden, with a sundial in the center of the garden.
CE 1932 - 1934	Removed	The formal garden pergola is removed during this period.
CE 1937	Built	A chain link fence is added to the eastern property boundary between the house and the Cabot property.
CE 1938	Planted	Glass negatives show four rhododendrons planted in the oval.
CE 1938	Destroyed	In September, a hurricane destroys the elms at the gate, a catalpa, an apple at the bottom of the garden, and many of the pines along the walk to the northern end of the property.
CE 1950 - 1955	Paved	During this period, Michael Gaffney, a gardener at the house, paves the walk from the front gate to the front door of the house with brick. In the process, he narrows the walk from eight to five feet. He also reinforces the east end of the brick wall and removes ten feet from its west end for traffic safety.
CE 1955	Purchased/Sold	The field to the north of the house is sold to Harvard University Episcopal Divinity School.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1969 - 1970	Removed	In accordance with plans developed by Dianne Kostial McGuire to restore the garden and grounds to Longfellow's era, the side beds are removed from the formal garden, the honeysuckle by the east piazza is replaced with vinca, the oval outside the library is changed to a rose garden, and roses are planted along the front balustrade.
CE 1972	Established	Longfellow National Historic Site is established by Public Law 92-475.
CE 1975 - 1976	Paved	A bluestone path is added through The Trellis Arch Garden to improve access to the ell. The front fence and balustrade on the terrace are repaired, rebuilt, and repainted. The brick wall is repointed, and the gate assembly is repaired.
CE 1978	Restored	Vandalism necessitates repair of the Chippendale fence.
CE 1979 - 1980	Planted	A cutting garden is planted to the north of the woodshed.
CE 1984	Rehabilitated	Boxwood is renewed by pruning. A copy of the sundial is stolen and replaced. Lilacs in the laundry yard are replanted.
CE 1985	Built	An irrigation system is installed on the property.
CE 1985 - 1987	Paved	Carriage drive is excavated and resurfaced to achieve proper drainage and edged in granite blocks set in concrete.
CE 1985 - 1987	Planted	In The Trellis Arch Garden, boxwood is moved to the formal garden and replaced with Japanese barberry. The Trellis Arch Garden is also replanted with ferns, hollyhocks, and clematis. The roses in the oval outside the ell are transplanted to the west border of the formal garden, the vinca beneath the east porch is replaced with Hall`s honeysuckle. The catalpa at the northwest corner of the woodshed is removed. Some of the roses on the front balustrade are replaced with woodbine.
CE 1989	Rehabilitated	The woodshed is rehabilitated as a visitors' center.
CE 1997	Rehabilitated	The carriage house is rehabilitated as office and conference space.
CE 1997 - 1998	Paved	A universally accessible ramp is constructed from the driveway to the northern end of the visitors' center, necessitating the removal of the cutting garden.
CE 1998	Built	A geothermal heating system is constructed for the house and carriage house.
CE 2005 - 2006	Rehabilitated	The formal garden is extensively rehabilitated, including replacement of plant material consistent with the Hutcheson and Shipman designs, reconstruction of the pergola, and repairs to fences and gates.
CE 2010	Established	The name of the park is changed by Congress to Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site to reflect the site's association with both Longfellow and Washington.
CE 2010 - 2011	Restored	The park restores the arbor and trellis in the Trellis Arch Garden in 2010-2011. Balustrades, both free-standing on front terrace and those associated with the house's piazzas and widow's walk also restored.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 2010 - 2011	Repaired	The geothermal heating system is improved.
CE 2013 - 2014	Planted	American elms in the forecourt are pruned by park staff, with complete removal of only the southwestern-most specimen (due to poor structure) and the specimen to the east of the entrance gate. The tree to the east of the entrance gate is replaced with the disease-tolerant Jefferson cultivar of American elm. In the formal garden, four cherries at the western end of the garden are replaced with Sargent cherries. Two crabapples at the eastern end are replaced with the 'Coral Burst' cultivar.
CE 2014	Rehabilitated	Rejuvenative pruning of nearly 1,000 lilac shrubs and the addition of supplemental lilac inter-plantings is completed.
CE 2016	Repaired	Repaired historic lattice fence and masonry wall. (PMIS 212665)
CE 2017	Rehabilitated	Replaced diseased tree and removed dead limbs from other park trees (mostly on west side). (PEPC 74009)
CE 2017	Rehabilitated	Improved and replaced deteriorated vegetation. (PMIS 162585)
CE 2018	Repaired	Repaired historic stone steps. (PMIS 209852 / PEPC 72218)
CE 2020	Rehabilitated	Replaced fence along east side of property. (PEPC 96199)
CE 2020	Restored	Restored Alice's Trellis. (PMIS 163251)
CE 2023	Repaired	Repaired wall, foundation, and stair masonry. (PEPC 118328)
CE 2023 - 2024	Rehabilitated	Mitigate at risk trees and replace deteriorated vegetation. (PMIS 305803)
CE 2024	Rehabilitated	Tree pruning, removal, and replacement (focused on Elm Forecourt, among others). (PEPC 110078)
CE 2025	Maintained	Maintained cultural landscape through youth internship working on deferred maintenance in Formal Gardens. (PMIS 330058)

Physical History:

INTRODUCTION

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. This section is primarily extracted from the 1993 report, "Cultural Landscape Report for Longfellow National Historic Site, Volume 1: Site History and Existing Conditions" by Catherine Evans.

NATIVE AMERICAN PRESENCE, PRE-1630

The present-day Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape has a deep and complex history, rooted in the lands of the Massachusett Tribe. The Massachusett inhabited the region around present-day Greater Boston, extending from Salem to Cape Cod and inland as far as Worcester, Massachusetts. Their name comes from the Massachusett language term meaning "At the Great Hill," referring to the Blue Hills overlooking Boston Harbor. They were organized into villages and larger bands led by sachems, or chiefs, such as Chickataubut of the Neponset band. The tribe practiced agriculture, cultivating corn, beans, and squash, and supplemented their diet through hunting, fishing, and gathering. They also maintained spiritual and cultural traditions, including storytelling and medicine practices. (Wikipedia: Massachusett)

The Massachusett were among the first Native Americans to encounter European settlers in New England. Early contact brought devastating epidemics, including leptospirosis around 1619 and later smallpox, influenza, and scarlet fever, which decimated their population. English colonists gradually took over fertile coastal lands, and missionary John Eliot converted many Massachusett to Christianity, establishing "praying towns" such as Natick and Ponkapoag, where Native Americans were expected to adopt European customs while retaining their language. Despite these pressures, the Massachusett maintained aspects of their cultural identity and oral traditions. (Wikipedia: Massachusett)

EARLY YEARS IN CAMBRIDGE, 1630-1730

Newtowne, as Cambridge was known in the 1630s, was the first administrative capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Situated just north of the Charles River, and five miles upstream from Boston and Charlestown, Newtowne had an inland waterfront location that guaranteed both protection and transportation. Access by land to Newtowne was limited to the Native American trail from Charlestown to Watertown, known to the colonists as “the path to Watertown.” It followed the Charles River, bending to skirt the marshes and lowlands. A wooded ridge, the rim of the Boston basin, inhibited access from the north and west. (Bunting and Nylander 1973: 18, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 1)

In 1634, thirty-nine families arrived in Newtowne with Reverend Thomas Hooker, and lots were granted to these settlers in an area that was known as the West End. The early West End lots were located on a gentle hill between the tidal marshes of the Charles River and the path to Watertown. The West End fields extended from these lots to the northwest, limited in range by the glacial ridges, the Great Swamp, and Fresh Pond. The Common formed the northeast boundary, and Watertown marked the southeast boundary. The size of the “great” lots in the West End increased from two to four or more acres. This allowed for agricultural activity on land immediately adjacent to the house, rather than in the fields, and marked an important shift in colonial land use patterns. (Bunting and Nylander 1973:16, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 1)

The deeds of the earliest landowners in the vicinity of what later became the Longfellow House and the National Historic Site (105 Brattle Street) indicate the extent and types of agricultural activity carried out in the West End. In 1655, Matthew Bridge, a yeoman, or farmer, inherited property that included an orchard, upland, and salt marsh west of where the Longfellow house now stands. Bridge sold his property to Amos Marrett, whose family consolidated several properties along the path to Watertown. A deed described one Marrett property as land, yard, and gardens, distinguishing simply between domestic and agricultural areas (see archaeology reports by Michael Heany and Stephen Pendery). Subsequent deeds list the Marretts as owners of orchards that ranged in size from one-quarter acre to ten acres, woodland, woodlots on Cambridge rocks, upland, meadow, marsh, pasture, and acres of corn and Indian corn, in addition to lands in the West End fields. The distinctions convey images of both the natural terrain and how the land was cultivated: meadow, salt and fresh, was used for hay; pasture was used for grazing livestock; and woodlots were used for timber and fuel. “Corn” was a generic term for grains, and Indian corn referred to maize, another edible grain. (Massachusetts, Middlesex County, Record of Probate (MROD), nos. 14677 (1664), 14667 (1754), 14662 (1739), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 2)

Newtowne underwent some changes as accessibility and commercial activity became more important to the administration of the colony than protection and fortification. In 1638 the seat of colonial government was moved to Boston, and, in the same year, the name of the town was changed to Cambridge. A new land use pattern – the consolidation of several small properties into estates – was another manifestation of the changing economic and political structure of the town. The West End was affected by these political and economic changes. The properties along the highway to Watertown were gradually purchased by a small but wealthy group of people. Known commonly as royalists, these people demonstrated their preference for maintaining ties with the British crown by establishing Anglican churches and emulating English culture.

THE VASSALL FAMILY AND TORY ROW, 1730-1774

The Vassall family was a distinguished member of the royalist group. Leonard Vassall, a grandson of one of the original patentees of Massachusetts, was born in the West Indies in 1678 and by 1723 had settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Two of Leonard's sons, John and Henry, became prominent figures in Cambridge. Colonel John Vassall bought property in Boston in 1736, but it is not clear whether this was his main residence. His first Cambridge property, a house and seven acres where 94 Brattle Street now stands, was purchased from Mercy Frizell in 1736. After adding a half-acre parcel to the Frizell property, Colonel John Vassall sold this property in two parcels to his brother Henry in 1741 and 1747. (MROD 37: 112 (1736), MROD 43: 271 (1741), MROD 47: 351 (1747), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 5)

At the same time, John Vassall began to acquire neighboring property that eventually became 105 Brattle Street. In 1746 and 1747, he purchased two parcels of land from Amos Marrett. The first was fifty acres between the King's Highway and the Charles River (just west of what was then Henry Vassall's estate) with a barn. The second was six and one-half acres with a dwelling house on the north side of the King's Highway. According to Harris, Colonel John Vassall erected a house and lived there until his death in 1747. (MROD 46: 390 (1746), MROD 47: 153 (1747), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 6; Harris 1863: 115, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 6).

It is unclear how this property was used between the time of Colonel John Vassall's death and his son John's graduation from Harvard College in 1757. John Vassall, Esquire, as the younger Vassall was known, inherited these two parcels from his father, and in 1759 built a mansion on the six and one-half acre lot. John Vassall, Esq. continued to improve his property by acquiring six parcels adjacent to the mansion as well as property in the surrounding area. By 1774 he owned a total of ninety acres along King's Highway and was one of the largest landholders in Cambridge. (Philips 1975: 4, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 6; MROD, no. 23340 (1778), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 6)

Research in 2025 revealed that John and Jotham Walton and a Mr. Hering were the principal carpenters on construction of the Vassall house, along with numerous Cambridge lumber merchants, stone masons, bricklayers, blacksmiths, glaziers, and painters. The home has many features typical of Georgian architecture, most notably its symmetry of the plan and facade, axial entrances, and low-hipped roof. Four decorative, non-structural Ionic pilasters on the façade enhance the prominence of the house, as do the two man-made earthen terraces, which raise the house approximately four feet and are surmounted by three short flights of sandstone steps. Other architectural features, such as a projecting central pavilion crowned by a balustrade, further enhance the prominent character and location of the house. (Review comment, E.Levine, 21 September 2026)

Graphic evidence of the eighteenth-century appearance of the Vassall mansion and grounds is limited to the Pelham Map of 1777 (Figure 1). This map provides a rare visual record of general topographical features in the Boston region. Since there are few dwellings noted on the map, the depiction of six dwellings along the Road to Watertown (now Brattle Street) are of note. These properties extended from the marshes and salt meadows of the Charles River north to a ridge. Most of the mansions faced the river from a location just north of the Road to Watertown, and thus guaranteed favorable conditions of aspect, views, access, and drainage.

The mansions were flanked by formal gardens and outbuildings, and Pelham's rendering indicates a preference for formal geometric garden styles prevalent in England in the early to mid-eighteenth century. The Vassall mansion was flanked by two large outbuildings with formal gardens just to the north. Pelham does not provide precise information on landscape features, and inaccurate proportions on his map create some ambiguity. For instance, although Vassall undoubtedly maintained a formal garden, Pelham indicates that these gardens were north of Vassall's outbuildings—on land that he did not own. These properties were maintained as country estates rather than self-sustaining farms, and house and garden were often separated from farms. Lucius R. Paige's description in "History of Cambridge" indicates that orchards were common, and while they are mentioned frequently in deeds and the town records, they are difficult to distinguish on the Pelham plan.

An estate as large and elegant as Vassall's would have required a complex of outbuildings for domestic services. According to a 1778 inventory, Vassall's estate contained "the mansion house with necessary house, wood house, and barns with two acres three quarters and nineteen rods of land...the farm house east of the garden with one acre and half and twenty-two rods of land adjoining." There are no plans illustrating the location of either the woodhouse or the necessary house (the privy or outhouse). However, even without the benefit of a plan, this deed indicates that Vassall's property was subdivided according to land use. The house and its service buildings, originally associated with six and one-half acres, was now associated with two- and three-quarter acres. Gardens and agricultural areas were considered distinct and separate lots. (MROD no. 23340 (1778) and Vassall Inventory 16640 (1779), quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 8)

In 1771, John Vassall exchanged drainage rights with his neighbor, John Hastings, which allowed Vassall "the liberty of draining his meadow through a lot of land I [Hastings] own near the said Vassall's farm barn." This deed is the earliest record of a wetland in the area northwest of the Vassall mansion. Later maps (Walling, 1854; Craigie, 1840) indicate a brook flowing from this area into the Charles River, and, according to local tradition, the area north of the source of this brook, now Healey Street, was marsh. Vassall eventually bought this piece of land from Hastings in 1774, thus making his holding along the north side of Country Road almost continuous between what are now Mason and Sparks Streets. (MROD 72: 100 (1771), MROD 72: 132 (1771), MROD 75: 428 (1774), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 8)

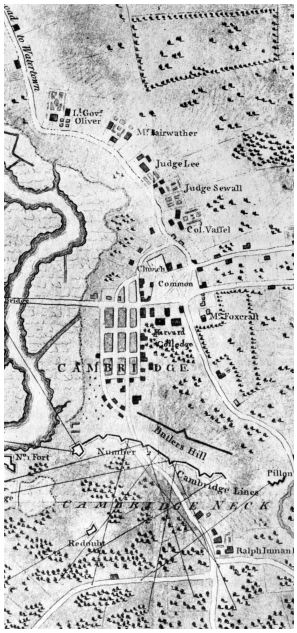


Figure 1. Detail from "A Plan of Boston in New England with its environs...with the Military Works constructed in 1775 and 1776" by Henry Pelham, London, showing the estate of Col. Vassel [sic]. (Pusey Library, Harvard University)

THE REVOLUTION AND ITS AFTERMATH, 1774-1792

The early 1770s were years of mounting political tension between the Whigs and Tories throughout the colonies. In April 1774, shortly after John Vassall had expanded his estate to ninety-seven acres, he and his family were forced to flee Cambridge. The Vassalls initially found refuge in Boston, where they remained until 1776. Vassall and his family sailed with other Loyalist families to Halifax, Nova Scotia and then to England. (Harris 1863, 122-123, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 11)

The Vassall mansion in Cambridge was occupied immediately after the Vassall family deserted, but it is unclear who first took over the house. By the spring or early summer of 1775, General Glover and his Marblehead Battalion had established their headquarters at the house. The arrival of General George Washington in Cambridge led to Glover's departure:
"On the 7th of July they received orders to encamp…From the records of the Provincial Congress we learn that Joseph Smith was the custodian of the Vassall farm, which furnished considerable forage for our army. It was at the time when haymakers were busy in the royalist's meadows that Washington, entering Cambridge with his retinue, first had his attention fixed by the mansion which for more than eight months became his residence." (Historic American Buildings Survey 1935, referenced in CLR 1993 v.I: 11; Drake 1874: 294, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 11)

Samuel Adams Drake, writing a century after the Revolution, did not provide specific references for his sources.

It is known that Washington was situated in the president's house at Harvard College on his arrival in Cambridge on July 2, 1775, and that he relocated to the Vassall mansion on July 15. Because Washington did not keep a journal during the war, his reasons for moving to the Vassall mansion remain unclear. Possible reasons include the luxury and capacity of the house, as well as its more protected situation in relation to the river. The Drake passage remains the only indication of how the grounds were used during the war. Washington planned and executed the siege of Boston, the march to Quebec, the new organization of the Continental Army, and the occupation of Dorchester

Heights from the Vassall mansion. Washington was successful in his beseige of Boston, and the British evacuated Boston on March 17, 1776. Shortly thereafter, on April 4, 1776, Washington vacated his Cambridge headquarters. (Drake 1874: 305, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 12)

It is unclear whether or not the former Vassall house was immediately occupied following Washington's departure. The estate was forfeited and confiscated by an act of the General Court in 1779, and consequently put up for sale in 1781 Nathaniel Tracy, a wealthy privateer, purchased several Cambridge lots in 1781, among them the John Vassall property. This is described in the deed as:
"47 acres situate in Cambridge aforesaid being the homestead of John Vassal [sic] bounded...southwesterly by the road to Watertown & moving the fence four feet into the field from the southwest comer to the Stone Bridge…Also about forty acres of upland and marsh situate in Cambridge aforesaid on the opposite side of the road…Also nine acres and one half, known as the Goddard lot." (MROD 82: 366 (1781); MROD 82:366 (1781), quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 12)

The 1781 deed uses location rather than land use to define Tracy's property, suggesting that land uses mentioned in earlier deeds, such as "garden," and "pasture," had halted during the Revolution. It is important to note that the original six and one-half acres that had originally surrounded Vassall's mansion, which were reduced to two acres by 1774, were now assimilated into one forty-seven-acre parcel. Of further interest is the existence of a fence surrounding the field, for this is the first indication of enclosure on the Vassall property. The shifting of this fence also suggests that the road was either widened or moved at this time. The stone bridge terminating this fence may have been a culvert draining the Vassall meadows. The Goddard lot was not contiguous with the Vassall estate. (Nylander, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 12)

In 1786, Nathaniel Tracy's financial condition led to his sale of the 140-acre property to Thomas Russell, a Boston "merchant prince" and the first president of the United States Branch Bank. The deeds for this transfer describe the estate as a collection of properties, and do not indicate that Tracy made any changes in boundaries, use, or appearance. They do, however, rely on land use to distinguish properties, and thus provide information about specific land uses, such as agriculture, during Tracy's tenure. Russell lived in Boston and used the house as a second residence, as had Tracy. There are no recorded changes or additions during Russell's brief tenure at the house. (Tracy to Russell, MROD 94: 383 (1786); MROD 95: 406 (1787), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 13)

ANDREW CRAIGIE, 1791-1819

Thomas Russell sold his 140-acre Cambridge estate to Andrew Craigie in 1792. As with the transfer of property from Tracy to Russell, the deed for Craigie's acquisition listed the estate as a set of properties, maintaining distinctions of usage, such as meadow and pasture, and of origin, that is, the Henry Vassall estate. Only the description of water and a watercourse on a two-acre lot (purchased by Tracy in 1781) differed significantly from the date of its original purchase. This is the only indication of changes (other than the moving of a fence four feet into the field, which is indicated in the deed for Tracy's acquisition of the property and mentioned above) made during Tracy's or Russell's ownership. The water and watercourse may refer to an aqueduct which extended from a spring at the base of the hill in the northwest corner of the property toward the marsh west of the house. Popular tradition provides that Tracy built this aqueduct, as well as a summerhouse on top of the hill, but this has not been confirmed in other records. (MROD 110: 408, Russell to Craigie 1792, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 15; Longfellow, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 15)

Agricultural reform and urbanization were integral to the development of the new nation during the Federal period. To maintain his comfortable lifestyle, Craigie focused his business activities on the improvement of both agricultural and urban land. Craigie was a charter member of an organization known as the "Massachusetts Society for the Promotion of Agriculture," an association of gentleman farmers which sought to increase farm production and crop yields through the application of modern scientific techniques. The society also promoted the use of soil amendments such as manures, seaweed, and lime to nourish the soil. They sought solutions to the canker worm on shade trees and fruit trees as early as 1805. Intended to benefit all farmers regardless of means, the society published papers in which they promoted the practices of reforestation, crop rotation, and hedge planting. Craigie published a paper in 1803 entitled "The Benefit of Frequent Ploughing." The charter members included Samuel Adams, Charles Bullfinch, Christopher Gore, and John Codman. John Adams was also an early member of the society and president for many years. All were gentleman farmers in Federal Boston and owned elegant country seats in the region.

Elizabeth Craigie shared an interest in botany and horticulture with her husband. The Craigies transformed their property into a picturesque farm adorned and embellished with fixtures and plant materials, both exotic and indigenous. Although the mansion was elegant and spacious when it was built, Craigie's improvements to both the mansion and the grounds were so grand that the property was commonly referred to as the "Castle Craigie." The Craigies also supported the development of horticulture in the Boston area. Andrew Craigie donated three acres of land to Harvard College for its Botanic Gardens in 1805. The most advanced horticultural information and material was essentially at their back door, and Botanic Garden records indicate that Madame Craigie frequently purchased plants there. (Hammond 1987: 78, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 16)

After the Revolution, Craigie travelled on business between Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and New York. By 1791, he had decided to settle in Cambridge and was negotiating the purchase of the former Vassall house. Bossenger Foster, Craigie's brother-in-law, managed Craigie's affairs in Cambridge. Prior to Craigie's official purchase of the property, Foster had the preliminary outfitting of the Vassall mansion and grounds well underway. While Andrew Craigie was travelling in 1791 and 1792, he corresponded frequently by mail with Foster. This correspondence provides descriptions of interior furnishings, plant lists, and concerns for specific exotic plant materials. Unfortunately, it does not include a plan of the grounds and makes few references to the placement of plant material. The correspondence is limited to Craigie's absence from Cambridge.

One of the primary concerns conveyed in the 1791-1792 correspondence was the repair and construction of outbuildings. When Vassall's estate was confiscated in 1778, it consisted of a mansion house with four outbuildings: a necessary house, a wood house, barns, as well as a farmhouse east of the garden. It is unclear how many outbuildings (relating to the mansion) Craigie purchased with the property. However, the Foster-Craigie correspondence indicates that a new woodhouse was built in 1792. Three new structures, the greenhouse, the temple, and icehouse, are mentioned here, which do not appear in the Vassall inventory. Although their origin is undocumented, sketches by Craigie and Foster indicate that, in addition to screening views, the

woodhouse complemented the existing buildings creating a new (or reinforcing an existing) distinct yard between the house and barn. Limited documentation makes it difficult to trace the evolution of the outbuildings and this yard. Six outbuildings, a barn, a coach house with building attached, a granary, a greenhouse, a farmhouse, and a workshop, were listed in an inventory after Craigie's death in 1819. By 1840, when a survey was conducted to document Mrs. Craigie's inheritance, five of these were extant and five unidentified buildings had been added. (MROD no. 23340 (1778), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 17; City of Cambridge, Plan Book 1-A, plan 6, 1840, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 18)

It is possible that there were two greenhouses. The first may have been close to the house, as part of the yard. A second and larger greenhouse was located further away from the house, probably near or in the midst of the gardens themselves. The narrow L-shaped structure on the plan may have been "a covered walk," mentioned in "Craigie House," an unpublished manuscript by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Frances Appleton now in the collection of the Houghton Library at Harvard University. Craigie also substantially increased the size of the house by relocating the exterior wall ten feet further north in the early 1790s. Craigie created a hallway behind the northwest room (originally the kitchen) and enlarged the northeast parlor. An ell, built behind the new hallway, extended the house further north, and provided room for a new kitchen and bedrooms. Twelve-foot-wide piazzas on the east and west sides were built at the same time. A few years later, the eastern piazza was extended to wrap around the east and north sides of the ell.

Few of the Foster-Craigie letters indicate specific improvements made to the grounds. One 1791 letter referred to a dam and an existing summerhouse: "The Dam or Cause way will very shortly be in compleat [sic] repair, the walk to the summer house is begun and when finished I dare say will please you." Although Foster does not specify the location of this dam, a pond depicted on the 1840 plan suggests that Craigie transformed the parcel of land which John Vassall had purchased to improve drainage into a pond and island. A dissertation (1804), with a plan and a perspective drawing of the summerhouse, locates and describes the summerhouse as an open "tempietto" in the northwest section of the property. The location of the walk to this house is unclear (Figure 2). (Foster to Craigie, May 1791, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 21)

Throughout 1791 and most of 1792, Craigie arranged for a variety of trees, shrubs, and fowl as well as decorative accessories for the interiors to be sent to his "farm at Cambridge." Foster's letters in 1791 discuss the planting of elm trees and, on the road to Fresh Pond, other forest trees. Sixty-two Lombardy poplar trees were sent to Cambridge (twelve large and fifty small). They were stored in a fenced-in nursery to protect them from cattle. The 1840 plan shows ten trees defining a forecourt in front of the house, and a second mathematical dissertation on the Craigie house (Warner, 1815) depicts at least two trees, which resemble elms, in front of the house (Figure 3). (Foster to Craigie, April 1791, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 22)

Warner's drawing also depicts two types of fences enclosing the front of the house. The 1975 "Historic Structures Report" suggests that the original enclosure was made of brick from local Cambridge clay and dates to Vassall's era. By 1815 Craigie had replaced the central portion of this wall with a wood fence, in a Chinese Chippendale pattern which was popular in eighteenth century England. The fence created a lighter, transparent screening between the house and road. Like the improvements to the house, this fence was an outward expression of Craigie's wealth and sophistication. (Nylander 1975: 138, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 22)

The Foster-Craigie correspondence contains two plant lists documenting more than one hundred fruit trees were shipped to Cambridge. These included several varieties of apple, peach, apricot, plum, cherry, and pear (see lists in Appendix C of CLR 1993 vol.I). Such quantity and variety are not surprising. The cultivation of fruit in orchards and as fruit walls dated to colonial times and increased as more exotic species and varieties were discovered in the late seventeenth century. There is no mention of an orchard in the letters, but the quantities and variety shipped indicate that a "plantation of fruit" was maintained on the estate. Also, there is discussion of origin and hardiness implying that Craigie was having difficulty with the fruits. Craigie was assured in another letter that all of the trees were from American nurseries, in particular from the Prince Nursery of Long Island. On March 22, 1792, 108 fruit trees were sent, "of different kinds," most likely of the varieties mentioned in the first

list. Tuberous roots and “raspberry plants of a very valuable kind” also arrived in Cambridge and were stored until Craigie’s arrival the following spring.

In 1795, a pump was purchased and the summerhouse was reglazed. Another note (July 1795) makes reference to the outfitting of “the little house on the hill” for the gardener family to live in. In 1794-1795 Craigie’s account books show extensive purchases of cedar rails and posts, indicating that he may have fenced the boundaries of his property.

At the time of his death in 1819, Craigie was one of the largest landowners in Cambridge but heavily in debt. His dwelling and property on the upper road to Mt. Auburn was described in an inventory of the estate as follows:
“The homestead consisting of about 135 acres of mowing, tillage, pasture and marshland with the mansion house and buildings appurtenant – the farm house and two other houses appurtenances situated on the lane leading to the botanic garden, – all the outlots of marsh being included.”
(Craigie’s waste book and account book, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 23)

The inventory also lists livestock, farm equipment, grains, and greenhouse plants and supplies indicating that the estate was, to an unknown degree, a working farm until his death.

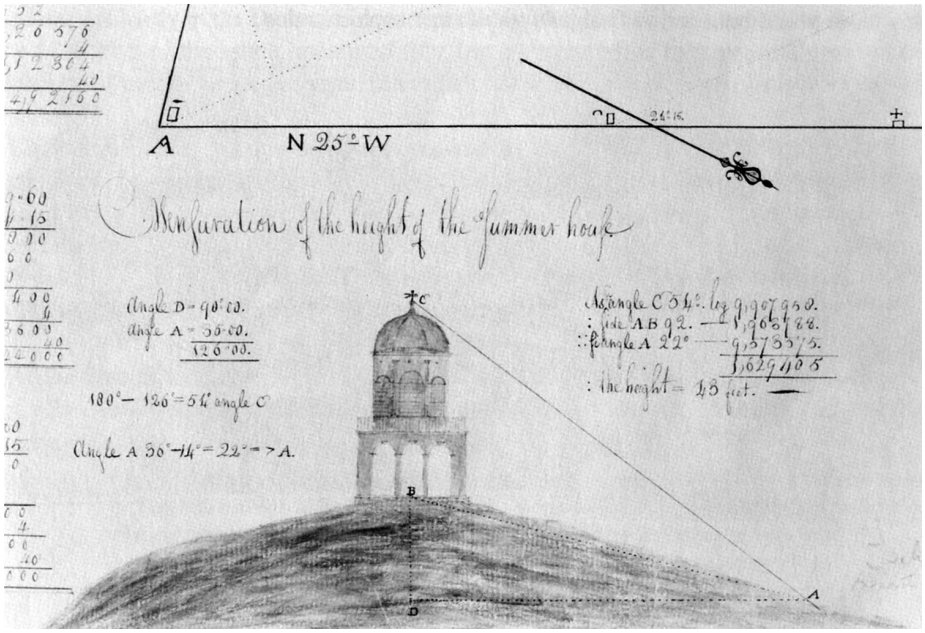


Figure 2. Charles Saunders, "The Survey of a Tract of Land in Cambridge and a perspective delineation of a Summerhouse thereon." Mathematical thesis, 1804. (Pusey Library, Harvard University)

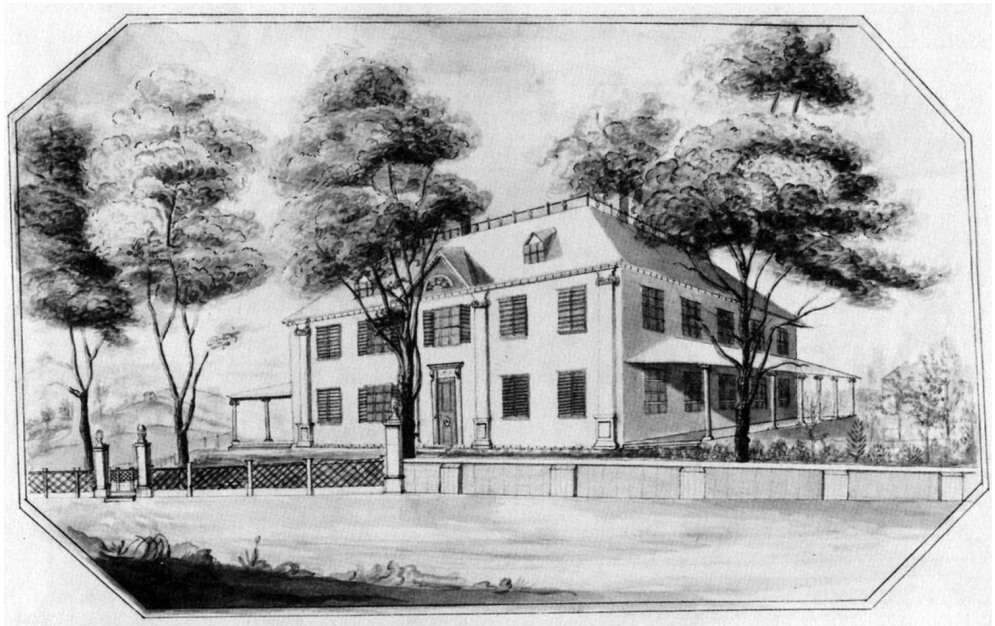


Figure 3. Charles Saunders, "The Survey of a Tract of Land in Cambridge and a perspective delineation of a Summerhouse thereon." Mathematical thesis, 1804. (Pusey Library, Harvard University)

ELIZABETH CRAIGIE, 1819-1841

When the indebted Andrew Craigie died in 1819, his properties became the focus of legal negotiations among his wife, Elizabeth, and Bossenger Foster's children: Andrew Foster, John Foster, Thomas Foster, and Elizabeth Foster Haven. As a first step toward settling the estate, Andrew Craigie's property was inventoried. Totaling 610 acres, Craigie's real estate holdings included many properties that were "arable, meadow, and pasture," as well as farms in Chelmsford and Charlestown. The inventory described the Cambridge house as "the mansion with the gardens & yard containing six and a half acres," thereby recalling the original Vassall purchase of six- and one-half acres, and distinguishing the domestic grounds from agricultural areas. The inventory provides new landmarks: the new road (Mt. Auburn Street), the "botanick" garden, the Concord Turnpike, the spring, and the aqueduct were used to define property boundaries. (Craigie inventory 5303 (1819), quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 25)

The Craigies' Cambridge mansion and its grounds comprised 135 acres of this estate. In 1821, Mrs. Craigie was awarded as her inheritance a third of the Cambridge property, based on value. The remainder was divided among the four heirs. Mrs. Craigie was allotted the mansion and grounds, the adjoining "close," or meadow, the meadow across the street, and a separate thirteen-acre lot with the mansion of Benjamin Lee—a total of ninety-five and one-half acres. The summerhouse lot and the aqueduct lot, both separated from the grounds of the mansion by the Concord Turnpike (now Concord Avenue), were awarded to Andrew and Thomas Foster, respectively. (MROD 240: 332-335 (1821), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 25)

Elizabeth Craigie also inherited her husband's debts, and in the years following the partition of the estate, she auctioned the furnishings, livestock, garden tools, greenhouse pots and plants, the garden engine, carriages, etc. She maintained an income by renting rooms and selling fruits and flowers. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, one of her boarders, mentioned Mrs. Craigie's garden and greenhouse in "Craigie House:"
"The grand garden was maintained and Fruits and flowers extensively sold by her gardeners…The dilapidated old brick greenhouse in ruins, remained until Mr. Oliver (Hastings) bought the land on which it stood."

Unfortunately, no visual record survives. (MROD Craigie documents, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 25; Longfellow, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 25)

Longfellow arrived in Cambridge in December of 1836 to assume his position as Smith Professor of Modern Languages at Harvard. While looking for lodging in Cambridge, he visited a friend, Nathaniel Collins McLean, in his rented rooms at the Craigie house. The location of the house, close to the Charles River, delighted Longfellow immediately. Learning that McLean was departing the premises, he inquired about taking up residence with Mrs. Craigie. Three months later, in August 1837, Longfellow had persuaded Mrs. Craigie, with some difficulty, to rent him McLean's room and the vacant room behind it. The southeast chamber became his library, the northeast his bedroom.

Longfellow expressed his pleasure with his new lodging in a letter to his sister, Annie Longfellow Pierce:
"In my new abode I dwell like an Italian Prince in his Villa. A flight of stone steps, with flowerpots on each hand, conducts you to the door, and then you pass up a vast stair-case and knock at the left hand door…After this, a walk in the great gardens-appertaining to the domain." (H. Longfellow to A. Longfellow, September 1837, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 27)

It is clear from his early letters and journals written from Craigie House that the grounds were always a source of pleasure and inspiration for him. The following is a typical journal entry:
"How glorious these Spring mornings are! I sit by an open window and inhale the pure morning air, and feel how delightful it is to live! Peach, pear and cherry trees are all in blossom together in the garden." (Longfellow journals 1838, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 27)

Many journal entries and letters speak of the refreshing and invigorating air, water cooled breezes, scents of trees and flowers, and quiet walks.

Unfortunately, this landscape was tarnished by canker worms that devastated the stately elm trees on

the property. Longfellow's letters to his father in 1839 described his futile attempts to protect the elms by tarring their trunks, and the resulting bleak scene:
"We have here a plague, which troubles us more than War, Pestilence, or Famine: Namely Cankerworms which devour the largest trees.—(I mean the leaves.) The fine elms round the Craigie House were entirely stripped last year, and the worms came swinging down on long threads, into all the windows…I hope next summer to be able to sit in the shade, without being covered with creeping things, and brought daily like Martin Luther before a Diet of Worms." (April 1839, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 28)

Later that year he wrote:
"Tarring the trees did not succeed with the cankerworms. On the ten magnificent elms which stand in front of my window, not one leaf is to be seen. All is as bare as in Winter. We shall try again in Autumn. They are talking seriously here of forming a Society for the suppression of Canker Worms; and making a regular crusade against them." (H. Longfellow to S. Longfellow, June 1839, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 28)

The cankerworm, a common pest in the nineteenth century, defoliated deciduous and fruit trees. Painting a band of tar on the trunk a few feet from the ground was attempted to help prevent the larvae from reaching the foliage. Longfellow assumed both the cost and effort of controlling the worms, and his tar bands appear in many images of the house through the 1880s. (Longfellow journals 1841, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 28)

On April 6, 1840, the gardener's cottage and the principal stable at the Craigie mansion burned. As reported in the "Daily Evening Transcript," the fire "threatened the mansion, and was put out with water from the fish pond on the premises." Longfellow noted in the Craigie house notebook that the fire was probably the work of incendiaries, and that it was rumored that a gardener recently let go by Mrs. Craigie was responsible for the fire. (Daily Evening Transcript, April 15, 1840, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 29)

After Mrs. Craigie's death in 1841, the estate was again partitioned, this time into thirds. The heirs of the Fosters received one portion, the trustees for the Havens the second portion, and John Foster the third. This indenture was followed by further subdivision and construction on the Craigie estate. Most of the meadow on the south of the street was purchased by Gardiner Hubbard. He subdivided all but six acres, which he reserved for his own his mansion. Oliver Hastings acquired a four-acre parcel east of the mansion in 1843. Hastings' house, finished in 1844, rests on the eastern extension of the lower terrace of the Vassall mansion. Joseph Worcester bought thirty-two acres west of the house, the "close" with the pond and island. He built a mansion fronting Brattle Street and laid out roads and house lots on the periphery of his land. Worcester rented the Craigie house from the Fosters until 1844. Worcester occupied the western half of the house and sublet the eastern portion to Henry W. Longfellow. (MROD 431: 25 (1843), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 29)

HENRY W. AND FRANCES LONGFELLOW, 1841-1882

On July 13, 1843, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow married Frances ("Fanny") Elizabeth Appleton. After a month of visiting their families in Portland, Maine and Pittsfield, Massachusetts, the couple settled into the rented rooms at the Craigie house. Fanny wrote to her mother-in-law:
"We returned to Cambridge the day before Commencement and are most happy to be again in our dear old mansion, to which we are becoming too much attached to think of resigning it for a modem house with limited views and no associations. We hope to persuade my father to purchase it for us, as we find it in very good condition and it is roomy enough to be made very comfortable. To possess the rooms in which Washington lived so long is no slight temptation, and to me they have more recent associations equally interesting." (F. Longfellow to Mrs. Longfellow, September 1843, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 31)

The physical and historical associations of the house delighted Henry and Fanny as much as its comfort and size. The Craigie association, in particular, was remembered by the Longfellow family by referring to their home as "Craigie House."

Fanny and Henry persuaded Nathan Appleton to purchase the house and five acres of land for them in the fall of 1843. Eighteen months later, Nathan Appleton gave the house to Fanny for "one dollar, love and affection," presumably as a wedding gift. One of the Longfellows' first concerns as owners of Craigie House was the preservation of the view from the house to the Charles River. While her father was in the process of purchasing the Craigie house, Fanny wrote a letter asking him to consider an additional piece of land directly across the street: "If you decide to purchase this [the Craigie estate] would it not be important to secure the land in front, for the view would be ruined by a block of houses." The steady subdivision of the land on the south side of Brattle Street spurred the Longfellows' concern about the historic and treasured view of the Charles River. Nathan Appleton purchased a second, four-acre parcel of land in November 1843. Henry Longfellow purchased this from his father-in-law for four thousand dollars six years later. (MROD 434: 306 (1843), MROD 463: 32 (1843), quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 31; 1843, quoted in CLR v. I, 31; MROD 540:561, Appleton to Longfellow 1849, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 33)

In 1843, Longfellow echoed his wife's sentiments about the house in a letter to his friend:
"We have purchased a mansion here, built before the Revolution, and occupied by Washington as his Headquarters when the American Army was at Cambridge. It is a fine old house and I have a strong attachment from having lived in it since I first came to Cambridge. With it are five acres of land. The Charles River winds through the meadows in front and in the rear I yesterday planted an avenue of Linden trees, which already begin to be ten or twelve feet high. I have also planted some acorns and the oaks grow for a thousand years, you may imagine a whole line of little Longfellows, like the shadowy monarchs in Macbeth, walking under their branches for countless generations, 'to the crack of doom,' all blessing the men who planted the oaks." (H. Longfellow to F. Freiligrath, November 1843, quoted in CLR vol.I: 33)

Longfellow's awareness of the importance of the history of the house, its surroundings, and its inhabitants inspired his concern for the longevity of his property. Not surprisingly, he had a self-described "conservative" attitude toward repairs and changes on the property. In describing a visit with George M. Dexter, an architect, Longfellow articulated this attitude:
"Dexter the architect came to look upon the field of battle and contemplate the pulling down of old barns and the general change of house and grounds. In these repairs I shall have as little done as possible. The Craigie house is decidedly conservative; and will remain as much in its old state as comfort permits." (Longfellow journal April 1844, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 33)

Longfellow replaced the carriage house in 1844, probably with the help of Dexter. No plans exist for the original design of this building, but the Historic Structures Report (1975) identifies it as an early Victorian design, and notes that it is probable that portions of the earlier structure were reused in this building. Comparison between the 1840 plan of the Craigie estate and the location of Longfellow's carriage house indicates that the barn was relocated south of the original structure. In addition, the removal of the remaining outbuildings simplified the service yard. The Longfellows used only the

woodshed and the carriage house (Figure 4). (Phillips et.al. 1975: 131-33, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 34)

Henry W. Longfellow undertook other structural repairs throughout the years, including the replacement of the balustrade on the roof in 1844, the addition of balustrades on the piazzas, the installation of a slate roof in 1854, and the renovation of the structure north of the piazza into a billiard room in 1858. (Phillips 1975, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 36). During the first year with his family in Craigie House, Longfellow continued to devote considerable attention to the damaged elm trees. Under Worcester's tenure as master of the house, misguided care, rather than neglect, furthered the decline of the elms. Longfellow described, with dismay, this scene in "Craigie House:"
"In an evil hour he [Worcester] cut down the elm trees in front of the house, which had been nearly destroyed by the cankerworms; or rather cut their tops off in the vain hope of saving them. Thus fell the magnificent elms which signalized the place and under whose shadow Washington had walked." (Henry W. Longfellow and Frances Longfellow, "Craigie House," quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 36)

Longfellow recorded his efforts to maintain the forecourt of elm trees in an annotated sketch (Figure 5). This sketch corresponds to the forecourt depicted on the 1840 plan of the Craigie estate. Only three of the old elms survived, and Longfellow purchased eight elms between 1844 and 1846. Longfellow's careful notes in "Craigie House" about the origin and survival of these trees give rise to questions about the longevity of this forecourt. Three of these elms died the year after they were planted, and a fourth died in 1847. Longfellow indicated that only one of these was replaced, so it is possible that after 1847, the forecourt was reduced from ten to eight trees. In Vassall's day, the mansion had stood on a six and one-half acre parcel. Under Longfellow's ownership, the house was associated only with five acres and had no close or adjoining pasture. The reduction in the size of the estate did not change the essential situation of the house, but it was a register of local changes in land use. Although traces of earlier agricultural practices remained, the Longfellow property, like its neighbors, was no longer "productive." The fields, grand gardens, and orchards disappeared as smaller houses and lots emerged.

A significant impact of the changing character of the neighborhood was the creation of new, unmarked property boundaries. Around the mansion, a rustic fence and the pond served as a boundary on the west, and there was no enclosure to the east, between the Longfellow and Oliver Hastings properties. Although the northeast property line had not changed since Vassall's day, there is no information regarding its demarcation. Given this situation, it is not surprising that in addition to preserving historical landscape components (e.g., elms and views), the Longfellows also concentrated on planting hedges and screens around the edges of the property and creating new paths within the property.

Two plans illustrating these efforts have survived. The first depicts both the Longfellow property and neighboring properties. Two letters suggest that Henry W. Longfellow's brother, Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow (Sr.), may have been the author of this plan. Alex described the plans for the property in a letter to his brother, Samuel Longfellow, dated January 1844:
"We were very busy planning the grounds & I laid out a linden avenue for the Professor's private walk. I was often reminded of your fancy for such things…The house is to be repaired but not essentially altered, the old out buildings to be removed, trees planted a pond, & rustic bridge, created the pond is an apology for the bridge. Hastings is building a handsome house about 70 feet East of Craigie house rather close, but can be screened, & Joey Worcester is to leave the old Mansion in the Spring to take possession of the new house he has built just beyond the Craigie water on the west." (A. Longfellow to S. Longfellow, January 1844, quoted in CLR vol.I: 38)

Fanny Longfellow associated Alex with the genesis of this drawing in her journal:
"We had a very pleasant visit from Alick, which we persuaded him to prolong. He aided Henry with his engineer skill in drawing maps of our estate, which they decorated with rustic bridges, summer-houses, and groves a discretion! They contrived together to plant a linden avenue in which my poet intends to pace in his old age, and compose under its shade, resigning to me all the serpentine walks, where, in the abstraction of inspiration, he might endanger his precious head against a tree. This runs along the northern boundary, and it is to be hoped will be useful, moreover, in screening us from any unsightly buildings Mr. Wyeth may adorn his grounds with." (H. Longfellow and Frances

Longfellow, “Craigie House,” quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 38)

These sources refer to the “linden avenue.” This was the first path, laid out in the autumn of 1843. In addition to creating a poetic retreat for Henry Longfellow, the linden avenue served as a screen and a path between the Longfellow and Wyeth properties. The letters indicate that both necessary and decorative changes were made on the grounds. The old outbuildings, no longer needed, were removed. The description (and addition) of serpentine paths and the pond as an “apology for the (rustic) bridge,” reflects the influence of the current picturesque gardening tradition on their efforts (Figure 6). (H. Longfellow and Frances Longfellow, “Craigie House,” quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I:, 38)

In April 1844, workmen mistakenly pruned the lower limbs of the European linden on the east lawn. Henry and Fanny both wrote in their journals of their distress over the event:
“When I went out on the bright clear morning of Good Friday, I found that the “Men of Ross,” the Irish workmen, had lopped away the long low branches of my Linden tree, misunderstanding my directions. O day of woe!...My walk on the Eastern piazza is desecrated! I am wretchedly disturbed, and poor Fanny in tears and quite heart broken!” (Longfellow Journal, April 5, 1844, from Patterson, 227)

Fanny noted, “The graceful linden lopped of its flowing skirt by an over-zealous workman…Made myself foolishly miserable about it, forgetting my nerves were so excitable just now.” (Longfellow Journal, April 5, 1844, from Patterson, 227)

In the spring of 1844, a lilac hedge was planted along the fence in front of the house. This was followed by the planting of an acacia (locust) hedgerow along the eastern boundary on April 28, 1844. Fruit trees were planted on the “intervening lawn.” A sketch that Longfellow sent to his father in 1844 illustrated these new plantings and paths in the immediate vicinity of the house (Figure 7). Of note are the acacia (locust) hedgerow on the eastern boundary, the clear demarcation of the terraces, the forecourt of elms, shrubs along the boundaries and driveway, and the path system. The elm trees on the eastern lawn are shown interspersed by shrubs. Thirty-three trees (possibly the fruit trees) are shown in a quincunx pattern on the east lawn. Although these trees appear in both the drawing and the letter, there is no other evidence of their planting. This drawing is also the first clear representation of the carriage drive. (Longfellow Journal April 1844, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 39; Longfellow “Craigie House” and Longfellow Journal April 1844, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 39)

In addition to planting trees and shrubs throughout the property, the Longfellows also planted a flower garden. Longfellow described its shape as being in the form of a lyre: “Made the flower garden; laying it out in the form of a Lyre. Built also the rustic seat in the Old Apple tree. Set out the roses under the Library windows.” A watercolor by N. Vautin given to the Longfellows in 1845 is the only visual evidence that remains of the lyre garden and the rustic seat (Figure 8). In the painting, the southern edges of this garden are visible, as well as more dominant features like the linden tree, the apple tree with its seat and swing, and distant view across the street. In the same year, after this painting was made, boxwood edgings were planted along the flower beds. (H. Longfellow and F. Longfellow, “Craigie House,” quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 41; FAL Diary May 1844, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 41)

In 1847, Richard Dolben, an English garden designer, redesigned the flower garden. Both Henry W. and Samuel Longfellow described the development of this new garden with optimism: “We are fairly embarked in making a flower garden, under the guidance of English Dolben, who understands his business well.” Dolben’s 1847 plan for the design of this garden shows general forms but does not provide detailed information about exact planting or a rose-window pattern in the central bed (Figure 9). The central circular bed was thirty feet wide, walks were five feet wide, and there were border beds on all sides. The 1847 plan also shows a trellis with a gate extending eastward from the woodshed. As neither trellis nor woodshed appears in the Vautin painting, but do appear in later photographs, it is possible that their placement coincided with the planting of Dolben’s garden. An entry in “Craigie House” explains the origins of the trellis and gate. Longfellow wrote: “The green trellis-work by the flower-garden was a part of an old, covered walk to the outhouses. The gateway is from the old College house which stood opposite the bookseller’s in the college yard.” (Longfellow to Longfellow, November 1847, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 42; Longfellow Journal, November 1847,

quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 42; H. Longfellow and F. Longfellow, “Craigie House,” quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 43)

Many letters from Samuel Longfellow to Anne Longfellow Pierce, (sister of Samuel and Henry W.) and entries in Fanny Longfellow’s journal note the frustrations and delights of the garden. It seems that the poet was not directly involved in the care and development of the garden, and that its planting and maintenance were rather the domain of Samuel and Fanny (Samuel Longfellow lived at the house periodically with Henry and Fanny). The garden and the property in general were always a source of pleasure for the family. In her manuscript, “Reminiscences of My Father,” Alice Longfellow, Henry’s oldest daughter, provided a summary of both the grounds and her father’s interest in maintaining them:
“There were about four acres of land around the Craigie House when it came into my father’s possession. The lawn was in front between the house and the street and the rest open fields filled with trees. He was much interested in planting new trees and shrubs, and in laying out an old fashioned garden. The plan of the somewhat elaborate flower beds was his own design, surrounded by low borders of box, and filled with a variety of flowers. He was not a botanist nor a student of flowers, but he found a little amateur landscape gardening a very agreeable pastime. Behind the garden was a path shaded with tall pine trees, and this was one of my father’s favorite walks. There was a small green summer house, and a rustic bridge over a little brook that flowed through the garden. He also devised a rustic stairway, and platform with seats in an apple tree, where many pleasant hours were spent taking the after dinner coffee on spring afternoons among the blossoms, or talking with friends: while to the children it was the favorite spot of all.” (Alice Longfellow, “Reminiscences of My Father,” quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 44)

This passage corroborates the earlier sketch plans and the Vautin drawing. The significant elements of the 1843-1845 sketches and letters endured: the shaded walk, the garden, the rustic bridge, and the seat in the apple tree. Drawings by Ernest Longfellow further confirm the existence (and approximate location) of other elements, in particular the location of fruit trees, the summerhouse, and the gate in the trellis by the garden. (Longfellow Journals, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I:, 44)

The acquisition of additional land between the house and the river between 1849 and 1870 preserved the historic link between the house and the river. Longfellow’s concern for visual and physical access to the river was such that in 1869, when the impending construction of slaughterhouses across the river further threatened the view, Longfellow organized a corporation for the purpose of purchasing this land. The land was purchased immediately in 1869 and subsequently donated by the corporation to Harvard College in July 1870. The deed documenting this transaction describes the land as marsh with creeks and ditches as its boundaries. The deed also stipulates specific uses for this land:
“said premises are conveyed subject to the following condition that they shall be forever held and used by the grantees only as marshes, meadows, gardens, public walks or ornamental grounds or as the site of College buildings not inconsistent with these uses.”

This land was known as Longfellow Meadows. (MROD 1123: 42, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 48).

Although Longfellow increased the size of his estate, he made few changes in the appearance of the house and grounds between the 1840s and his death in 1882. Elm trees and lilacs graced the front of the house, boundaries were marked by hedges, the wooded path meandered through and around the garden area, and the flower garden itself continued to provide seasonal delight for the family. One notable change on the grounds in Longfellow’s later years was the placement of a balustrade on the crest of the lower terrace in 1872. Its effect instigated a small family debate. Longfellow noted, hopefully, its transience, while Alice noted how it added to the grandness of the house:
“I have put up the long talked of balustrade in front of the house and do not half like it, but suppose I shall get used to it in time. At all events being of wood, it can be easily taken away again; and in the meantime will be very romantic by moonlight. We have transformed the Craigie House into a baronial Hall by putting a balustrade on the top of the second bank. It will look very pretty when we get some vines growing over it.” (Longfellow Journal, April 1872, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 48)

The balustrade was not removed, as Longfellow had hoped, but instead appears covered with woodbine in a photograph of Henry and Edith that dates to 1880. On March 24, 1882, Henry

Wordsworth Longfellow died.

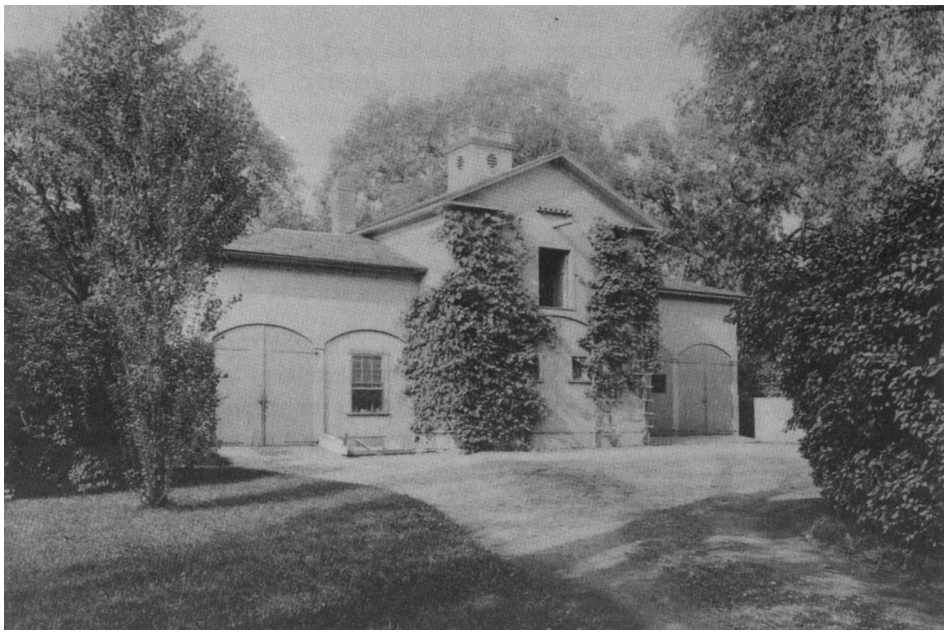


Figure 4. Carriage house erected by Longfellow in 1844, circa 1900. (National Park Service, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site)

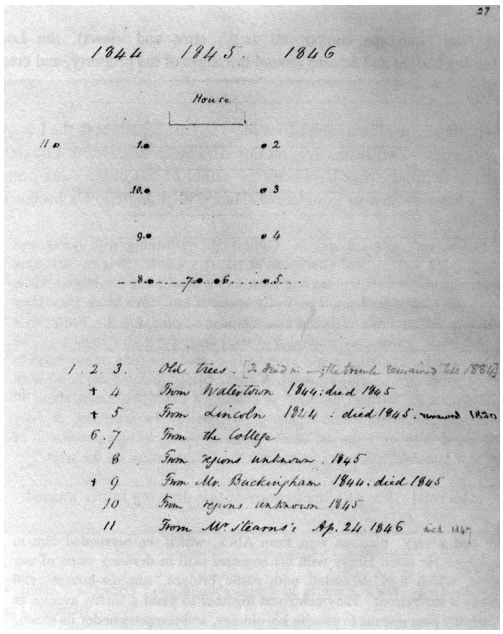


Figure 5. Henry W. Longfellow's sketch of the elm forecourt. (Houghton Library, Harvard University)

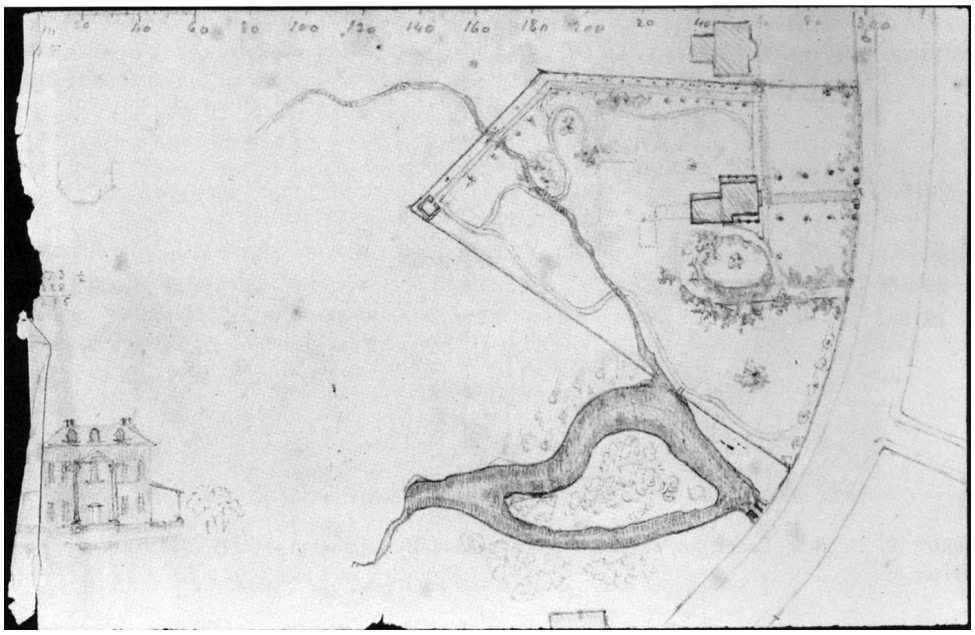


Figure 6. Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow's sketch of the grounds, 1844. (Houghton Library, Harvard University)

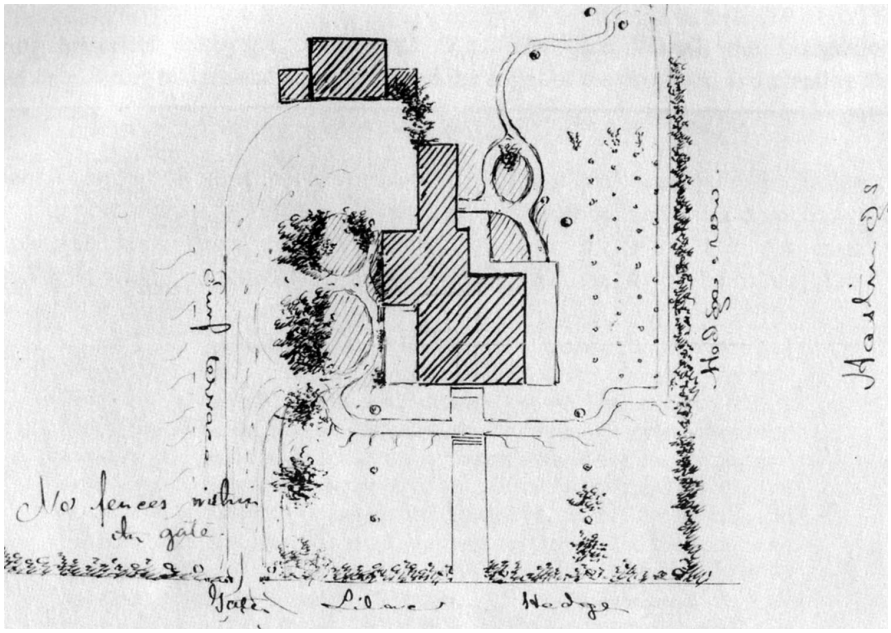


Figure 7. Henry W. Longfellow's sketch of grounds, 1844. (Houghton Library, Harvard University)



Figure 8. N. Vautin's painting of the Longfellow house from the north, 1845. Note the flower garden (lyre-shaped garden) at right and the large apple tree at left. (National Park Service, Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site)

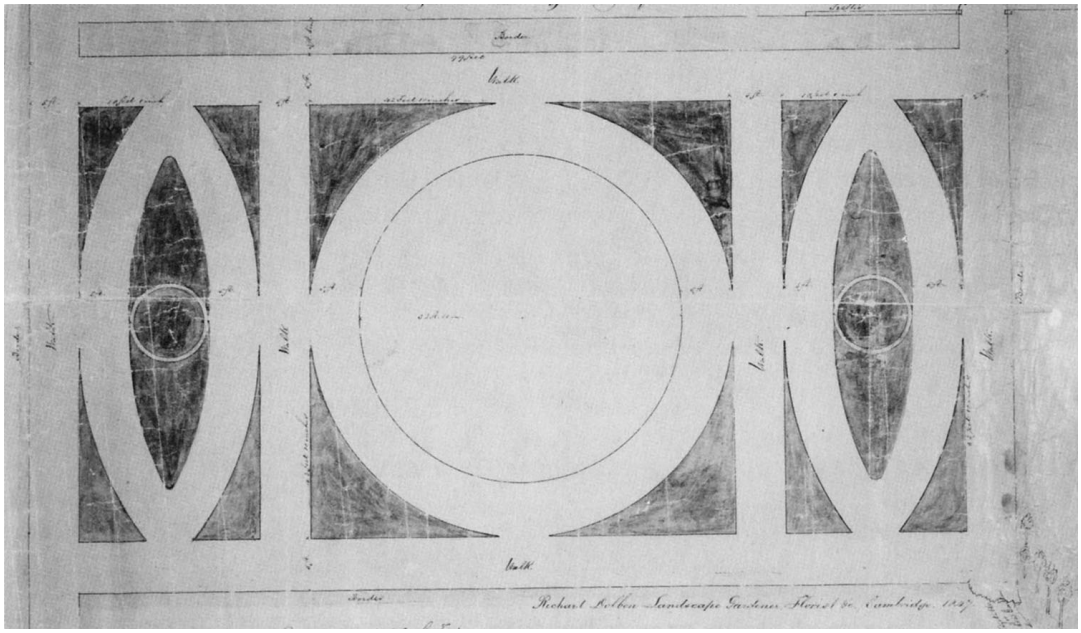


Figure 9. Richard Dolben's plan for the Longfellow formal garden, 1847. (National Park Service, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site)

LONGFELLOW PARK, 1882-1992

Like their father, the Longfellow children were aware of the historic significance of their home. The simple pleasure of the views of meadows and river were equally important to the Longfellow family (Figure 10). Henry W. Longfellow wrote often of the Charles River in his letters and his poetry, and it

was the subject of at least three drawings by Ernest Longfellow. Immediately after their father's death, the Longfellow heirs moved to preserve the land across the street from the mansion as a memorial to their father and his deep affection for the place.

Within two weeks of Longfellow's death, in the spring of 1882, a group of Longfellow's colleagues met to organize an association to create a memorial to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. By May 1882, the Longfellow Memorial Association (LMA) was incorporated with a membership of twenty-six. None of Longfellow's children were members of this association, but their donation of two parcels of land served as a contribution to the LMA. The first parcel, two acres opposite the house, the central portion of the treasured meadow, was donated to the association in 1883. The second donation of land, in 1888, was a small triangular lot between Mt. Auburn Street and the Charles River.

Prior to its formal organization in the spring of 1882, the LMA prepared a report that outlined its objectives:
"The erection under the direction of a competent committee, of a monument upon the lot of land opposite the late residence of Mr. Longfellow, including a portrait statue protected by an architectural canopy or other protection, and the laying out of the lot as a public park, to be surrendered to the City of Cambridge to be kept open forever, when the city is ready to accept the trust." (Scudder 1922: 8, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 51)

The first donation of land in 1883 from the heirs to the LMA enabled the project to commence. A plan entitled "Map of the Land opposite the Home of the late Mr. Longfellow Presented to the Longfellow Memorial Association by the Poet's Children" accompanied this donation. Both the plan and the deeds for the donation indicate that the Longfellow children had specific ideas for a memorial park and house lots surrounding the park before they donated land to the LMA. The plan distinguishes an open area of "grass" from a planted area called the "garden," and locates the monument in the northern section of the park, on the grass. A horseshoe-shaped road surrounded this and would provide access to the surrounding subdivision planned by the Longfellows. The deed was explicit about how the land should be developed. It stated that the roadway must be built within five years, that no trees or dwellings should be "suffered to exist" on the land, and that shrubs be trimmed to six feet. (MROD 1629: 457 (1883), referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 52)

In 1887, the Association retained the services of Charles Eliot, a young landscape architect who had apprenticed in Frederick Law Olmsted's office (1883-1885) in Brookline, Massachusetts, to design a park for the site. It was one of Eliot's first independent projects, and his first park. Eliot proposed accentuating the existing conditions by creating a park with two distinct parts. In this respect, his proposal is similar to the plan accompanying the donation of land to the LMA.

Recognizing that the upland section would be eventually surrounded by homes and thus would be "wholly public," he called this "the green," and designed it as a simple expanse of lawn surrounded by the horseshoe-shaped road and walks. Although he recommended that trees be planted along the sidewalks to frame the view to the river, he also acknowledged the restrictions cited in the deed by suggesting that adjacent property owners be encouraged to plant these trees. The low, granite wall at the northern end of the green was intended to keep people off the grass and provide a "handsome" edge. Eliot designed the lowland as "the garden," featuring paths and a small playground for children. The bank between the green and garden sections was designed to take full advantage of the views of the river and marshes. He proposed an exedra "facing squarely south," and on axis with the front door of the house. From the exedra a walk led southeast along the brink of the bank, to the highest point on the LMA property, and ended on a short terrace and a flight of stairs. (Eliot 1971: 211, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 55)

Eliot's plan was accepted by the LMA and was partially installed between 1887 and 1889. The major deviations from Eliot's plan were the installation of a large stone staircase (designed by C. Howard Walker) instead of the exedra, the tightening of Eliot's winding paths into an oval, and the restricted use of shrubs. In addition, trees were never planted on or around the edges of the green, and the brook was never realized. Other elements, such as the playgrounds, were not installed due to lack of funding. The elimination of these elements, and the realignment of Eliot's path, resulted in a park dissimilar to Eliot's intended design. The stone staircase, on the other hand, created a more

expansive opening between the green and the garden. A topographic map of the park, prepared by the office of Pray, Hubbard and White in 1910, depicts Eliot's plan as built. (McPeck et.al. 1983: 15, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 55)

The LMA continued to raise funds for a memorial statue after conveying Longfellow Park to the city of Cambridge in 1907. In 1912, the LMA hired Daniel French to design the monument. The design of the sculpture was immediately accepted, but its siting caused much debate. Eliot had recommended siting the monument on-or in-the bank, and French also considered this an appropriate location. The Longfellows, however, dissented, because in their opinion, "the lower lot is wet in certain seasons and it is not frequented by the same class of people as the upper lot." They wanted the monument on the "green," close to Brattle Street. French subsequently consulted Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (who in turn consulted with Arthur Shurcliff and John Nolen, two prominent landscape architects) who concurred with both Eliot and French. In addition, Olmsted, Jr. recommended that the design of the monument incorporate and redesign the existing steps. (French to Olmsted, April 1912, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 57; French and Frost to Olmsted, April 1912, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 57)

The stone staircase was replaced by a stone retaining wall designed by the architect Henry Bacon (Figure 11). This wall, essentially a base for the sculpture, aligns it with the Longfellow House and the gate to Mt. Auburn Street. Two sets of stairs flank this retaining wall, and between the stairs, at the base of the sculpture, Paul Frost, a landscape architect, designed a sunken memorial garden. Despite the consultation that preceded the siting of the Longfellow monument, its installation unfortunately obscured the view from the house to the river. (Scudder 1922: 17, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 57)

The planning of the Charles River Road began in 1892, and in 1900, the route was lined with plane trees. In 1910, the completion of the Charles River dam eliminated tidal fluctuations, and allowed trees and shrubs to flourish along the riverbanks. This alteration of the hydrology facilitated the stabilization, filling, and development of the banks of the river. Subsequently, land between Mt. Auburn Street and the Charles River, formerly owned by Longfellow, was developed as part of the linear park system by the Metropolitan District Commission. Changes to Longfellow Park since 1914 include the narrowing and resurfacing of gravel paths with concrete. The park is surrounded by both houses and institutions. By the 1970s several canopy and understory trees had been planted in the garden. These trees, in addition to trees planted along Memorial Drive, have obscured the view from the house.



Figure 10. The view from the house toward the Charles River, 1900. (Historic New England)



Figure 11. The Longfellow Memorial and Longfellow House, circa 1925. (Historic New England)

ALICE LONGFELLOW, 1882-1928

In 1888, the Longfellow children partitioned the remainder of the estate among themselves. Eleven lots, including the house and LMA land, were created within the boundaries of the original Longfellow estate. Partial division of the estate had preceded this comprehensive partitioning. Ernest Longfellow's house, "Honeymoon Cottage" was built in 1870 at 108 Brattle Street, and the core of the meadow, as noted above, was delineated in 1883. Longfellow's youngest daughters, Edith Longfellow Dana and Anne Longfellow Thorp, received lots west of the house. Both their homes, 113 and 115 Brattle, were completed in 1887. The partition affected the surrounding landscape, and at this time a lot known as "the field" was created north of the house, while a thirty-foot right-of-way was delineated between the main house and the neighboring Dana property. The "Craigie water" disappeared, and the view of the river from the house became restricted. (MROD, Longfellow et.al. "Indenture of Trust" 1879: 126-133, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 61)

Longfellow's children signed an "Indenture of Trust" in 1913. This authorized the establishment of a trust, managed by the law firm Moore, Parker and Pickman, for the purpose of preserving and maintaining the house:
"for the benefit of the public as a specimen of the best Colonial Architecture of the middle of the eighteenth century, as a historical monument of the occupation of the house by General Washington during the siege of Boston in the Revolutionary War and as a memorial to Henry Wadsworth Longfellow." (MROD, Longfellow et al. "Indenture of Trust" 1913, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 61)

Alice Longfellow remained unmarried, and was the only heir who did not build a house on the estate. The 1888 deeds allotted Alice two parcels of land: lot one, the field north of the house, and lot eight, to the west of the LMA land. The terms of the 1913 indenture also permitted Alice to reside in the house, and gave her responsibility for the upkeep of the house, its furnishings and,
"premises generally, together with all fences, walks, trees, plants, and shrubs in proper condition so as not only to insure the safety thereof, but to preserve an appearance appropriate to the character of the estate." (MROD, Longfellow et.al. "Indenture of Trust" 1913, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 61)

It is likely that Alice, like her father, retained a gardener to maintain the grounds after 1882. To date, there is no evidence of any major changes between 1882 and 1904.

However, in 1904 Alice hired Martha Brookes Brown (later Hutcheson), a young landscape architect, to work on the formal garden. Hutcheson's work both paid tribute to Longfellow's earlier garden design and made some significant changes in its layout and materials. Martha Brookes Hutcheson was an ambitious and outspoken woman, bearing the conviction that landscape architecture offered vast opportunities for civic and social improvement. She was influenced by Charles Sargent, Frederick Law Olmsted, and Gertrude Jekyll, and her principles of design combined neoclassical formalism with an appreciation of the value of native plant materials and styles. Her book, "The Spirit of the Garden," published in 1924, provides a concise summary of these design principles, and focuses on the importance of plants in defining space and order in the landscape.

This book, considered with information from Hutcheson's photographs and papers, provides clues to her design intent for Craigie House. First, it seems that the overall objective was to create a garden (beyond replanting) appropriate to the colonial style of the house. In her application to the American Society of Landscape Architects, Hutcheson listed the project as "Fl. Gar. arbors, gates, fences, etc to conform to Craigie House," and she described it in her book as "Colonial motive in arbor and gates." Hutcheson's work at the Longfellow house reflects both an early twentieth century interest in revival architecture and gardens, and a Longfellow family interest in colonial history. Alice Longfellow had a particular interest in colonial gardens as a member of the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, a group responsible for the preservation and restoration of the house and gardens. (Hutcheson 1923: 154, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 63)

The Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) conducted research on the Longfellow house and grounds in 1935. In response to their query for plans and other information on the garden, Hutcheson replied:
"I regret having to write you that there was no original plan of the Longfellow Garden when I took it in hand. I added all arbors, gates, etc. but I based the flower beds on the ghost of those which existed, as Miss Longfellow told me that her father, the poet, had laid out the original plan, taking the flower

bed shapes from a Persian pattern. Though I thought it an ugly idea, it was nevertheless, so in keeping with the way things were done at the period that I felt it was interesting to reset the box borders in the original flower bed pattern so long as Longfellow, himself, had done it originally. I felt that it was a way in which one of my generation could pay him an homage. This pleased Miss Longfellow very much." (Hutcheson to Frank Chouteau 1935, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 64)

A year later, Hutcheson responded in slightly more detail to a second inquiry from the HABS team: "The Longfellow Garden at Cambridge I overhauled entirely. It had gone to rack and ruin. I reset box in the Persian pattern which the poet had originally planned, for sentiment, which pleased Miss Alice Longfellow very much. Then I added arbors, gates, fence, etc. making of it a garden which Miss Longfellow could go to and, if she chose, close gates to visitors as she grew older." (Hutcheson to Frank Chouteau, 1936, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 64)

Plans and drawings of Hutcheson's work have not been recovered. However, this correspondence indicates that the essential plan of Henry W. Longfellow's garden, described as a "Persian pattern," was retained in these twentieth-century additions. In both letters, Hutcheson mentions resetting the box, but gives no indication that she replanted any other plant material. However, photographs show that Hutcheson planted boxwood and much, if not all of, the plant material. The second letter, in particular, establishes a two-fold objective for Hutcheson's work: the rehabilitation the existing garden as a memorial to Henry W. Longfellow, and the creation of an outdoor room for Alice Longfellow's enjoyment.

Martha Hutcheson's installation of gates, fences, and an arbor changed the dimensions and character of the garden area. The garden was enlarged by adding a second border bed on the western edge and widening the southern border. The most significant change was the relocation of the pediment and trellis (installed by Henry W. Longfellow in the 1840s) from an east-west orientation to its current north-south orientation. Hutcheson described the reason for this in her book:
"The use of the trellis for very rapid effect in cutting out some objectionable feature or making a garden demarcation where no space could be given to the growth of a hedge. The old stable, usually the haunt of numberless pigeons, lent interest to the garden when seen in part only. The lattice used in this way should be entirely covered by green, kept in well clipped form." (Hutcheson 1923: 104, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 64)

The trellis served as a screen between the garden and the barn, isolating the garden from service operations (e.g., barn activities, driving). As a screen, the trellis established the flower garden as a distinct room. As a wall, it established the garden as an extension of the architecture. Like the trellis, the remaining edges of the garden reflected Hutcheson's concern for expressing the relation between the garden and what lay beyond it. A three-foot-high, latticework fence replaced the trellis on the east lawn. This fence, located approximately five feet south of the original trellis, created a formal, yet open edge to the garden. In contrast, on the northern edge of the garden Hutcheson installed an informal arrangement of shrubs, complementing the informal character of the field behind it. The installation of an arbor transformed the eastern edge of the garden into a picturesque retreat (Figure 12). Hutcheson used arbors in many of her projects, and on the Craigie House arbor specifically, she wrote:
"This arbor serves three purposes: (1) It forms a shady spot which is large enough for a group of people to sit in; (2) It makes the long path more picturesque, breaking the effect of uninteresting distance; (3) It creates a camouflage screening a neighbor's building which lies at the direct rear of the arbor." (Hutcheson 1923: 115, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 69)

From Hutcheson's photographs it seems that a colonial effect was achieved through the detailing of the arbors and fences. Posts, finials, and lattice complemented the existing architectural details of the house and the fence along Brattle Street. It is not clear at this point whether plant material was used to achieve a colonial effect. Shortly after the formal garden was replanted, Alice Longfellow made some structural changes to the house. According to the 1975 "Historic Structures Report," a veranda was added to the rear second story in 1910. In 1905 the billiard room was removed from the woodshed, and the exposed east wall of the woodshed was transformed into another garden. Designed for Alice by Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow, Jr., this garden is a simple, small sitting area beneath a "shelter." The central seat is flanked by flower beds and a trellis, and the whole area was

enclosed with a low hedge (Figure 13). Plants are indicated but not specified in the plans for this garden.

In 1919, Alice received a letter from Charles Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum saying: “I am distressed to hear about your old Box. It may be necessary to cut it back severely, which of course would be a misfortune.” While there is no evidence of the initial communication or an immediate response to this letter, the letter indicates that maintenance of the garden, in particular the boxwood, was problematic. Six years after this letter, in 1925, Ellen Shipman produced planting plans for the Longfellow garden. Unlike Hutcheson, Shipman had no formal training in landscape architecture. An avid interest in horticulture and familiarity with the artist colony that flourished in Cornish, New Hampshire in the early 1900s were the foundations of her career. She honed her design skills by creating planting plans for the architect Charles Platt in the 1910s. In 1920 Shipman opened her own firm in New York City, and by the 1930s had an established reputation as a country estate designer. (Park files 1919, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 69)

The plans that Shipman prepared for Alice Longfellow survive, but as with Hutcheson’s earlier work, there is no correspondence between Alice and the landscape architect indicating the reasons or intent for the replanting (Figure 14). However, Shipman's plans include substantial horticultural notes and complete plant lists for shrubs, bulbs, and perennials. In many cases Shipman indicated the plant material she was replacing, thus providing information about the garden planted by Hutcheson. In addition, Alice Longfellow and her gardener, Michael Gaffney, saved all the receipts for the Shipman planting. This evidence indicates that Ellen Shipman made few, if any, major changes in the design of the garden, and suggests that her primary role, like Hutcheson’s, was to rehabilitate an existing garden rather than to create a new garden. According to the notes on the HABS drawings, Ellen Shipman placed a bench beneath a carmine crab and planted more shrubs behind this on the north edge of the garden. Her plans show the fence, trellis, gates, arbor, and pump intact. The plan also indicates a circular feature in the center of the garden where a sundial now stands on a column.

Alice travelled frequently to Europe and to family homes in Maine and in Manchester, Massachusetts. In her absences the house was open on a limited basis to visitors. The east porch, the east lawn, and the garden were used for ceremonies, especially Radcliffe graduations. The field to the north was also well-used by the neighborhood. It was surrounded by a board fence, visible in many twentieth-century photographs, and frequently interrupted by stiles (a series of rungs used to climb over the fence). According to Joan Shurcliff, whose family spent winters (1927-1947) in the house, the field was a favorite play area of both children and dogs. A small circus came there once a year, and baseball was often played on the field. (Joan Shurcliff, interview, August 1990, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 73)

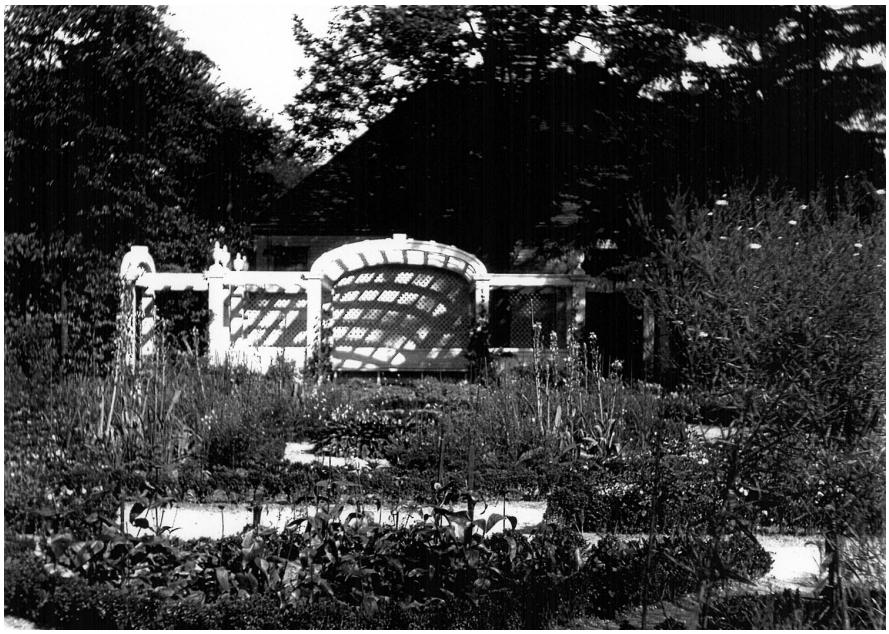


Figure 12. The completed arbor, after 1905. Photograph by Martha Hutcheson. (Morris County Parks Commission)

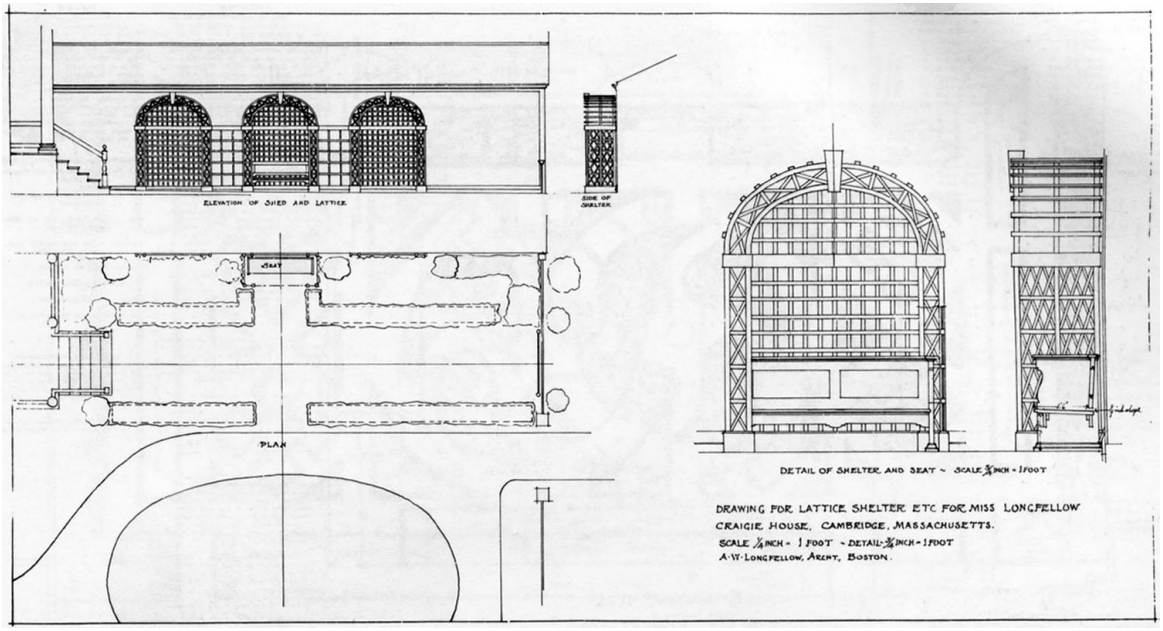


Figure 13. "Drawing for Lattice, Shelter, etc. for Miss Longfellow" by Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr., 1905. (National Park Service, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site)

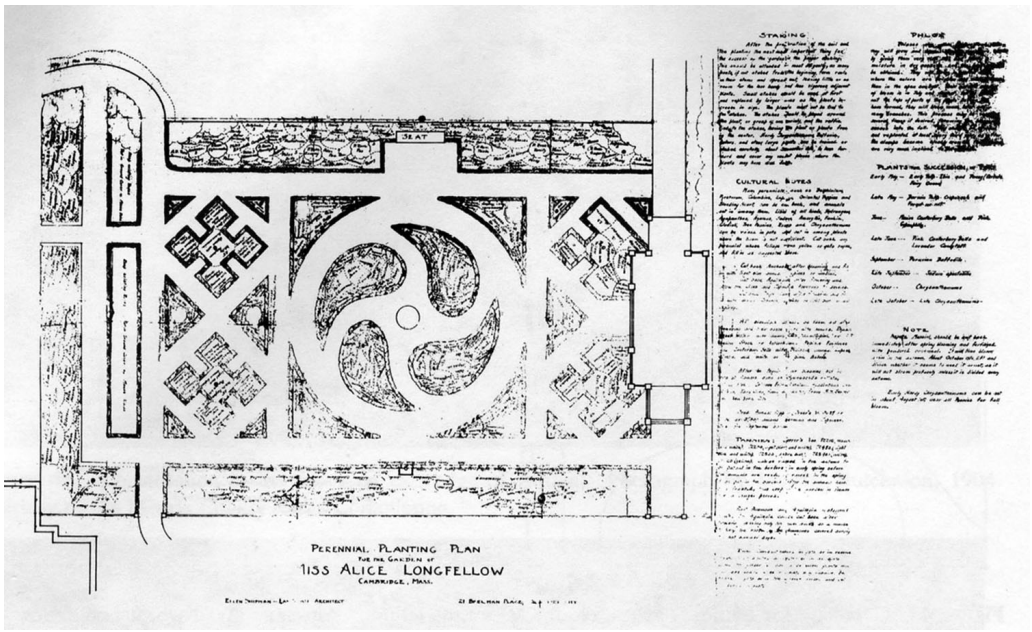


Figure 14. "Perennial Planting Plan for Miss Alice Longfellow" by Ellen Shipman, 1925. (National Park Service, Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site)

THE LONGFELLOW HOUSE TRUST, 1913-1972

There were no changes made to the property adjacent to the house at the time of Alice's death. Alice's nephew, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana, known as Harry, shared the house with her, and continued to reside there after her death in 1928. However, there were some slight adjustments in the management of the estate. In 1930, Annie Longfellow Thorp became the executrix of the estate, and in the same year, she placed restrictions on land adjacent to Longfellow Park. As a means of generating income and of sharing the house with relatives and admirers, the Trust approved the rental of rooms in the house to both families and students. These restrictions limited building height and type essentially to single-family residential or recreational structures. Restrictions were also placed on the Dana-Longfellow House property at 113 Brattle. In 1932, what the family intended to be an indefinite restriction was then re-defined as expiring in 30 years. In 1960, when the restriction expired, the Benshimols built the classroom addition onto the back of 113 Brattle.

Receipts on file at Hill and Barlow, the law firm which succeeded Moore, Parker and Pickman in management of the Longfellow House Trust, show that major maintenance projects on both the house and grounds were constant during the 1920s and 1930s. The fence, arbor, and trellis were repainted white, their original color, and repaired in 1916. The arbor was painted again in 1923 and finally removed in 1932-1934. Elm trees and a horse chestnut were replaced in 1922, and the lawn was thoroughly treated to improve soil conditions for the benefit of the trees and shrubs. The Trust approved the installment of a new green chain link fence on the eastern boundary between the house and the Cabot property in 1937.

As noted earlier, the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documented the property in 1935, upon the approval of Harry Dana and Annie Thorp. The HABS documentation provides a record of both the grounds and the house prior to the donation to the National Park Service (NPS). The HABS project identified and mapped all woody plants on the premises and produced measured drawings of the fences, gates, pediments, and balustrades, as well as of the grounds in general. The site plan is a particularly important documentation of the entire property (Figure 15). The forecourt of elms is shown to contain not ten but seven elms, three of which measured six inches in diameter, indicating that they had been recently planted. The wooden board fence, mentioned and visible in earlier documents and photographs, is clearly delineated on the east, northeast, and northwest boundaries.

On the east boundary, the fence terminates well above the turf terrace, and a hedge of barberry is evident below the terrace. Paths around and through the field are marked, as are trees.

As only two linden trees are identified in HABS documentation, it appears that the poet's original linden walk may have evolved into a wooded path, lined as it was in 1935 with oaks, American elms, maples, white ash, and pine trees. Two eight-inch caliper pear trees, possibly the remnant of an entrance of some sort, mark the path behind the barn. A drying yard, enclosed by lilacs, is shown west of the kitchen, and a woodyard, enclosed by a board fence, is north of the "woodhouse." Directly behind the eastern portion of the barn is another area, enclosed with lattice, whose function is not identified on the HABS drawings. This was probably the compost or manure pile. The installation of a tennis court behind the barn, at an unknown date, caused disagreement among the children, who bemoaned the loss of this childhood play space.

In retrospect, the 1935 survey was well-timed for several reasons. In September 1938, the "Great Hurricane" devastated New England. Harry Dana described the damage to the Longfellow property in a letter to his cousin, Mary King Longfellow, which included:
"the most beautiful elms at the gate, the lovely catalpa with its late fragrance outside my window, and the sheltering umbrella-like apple at the bottom of the garden. Fortunately the great elm near the house and most of the elms behind the house are still standing, though only three of the pines along the walk to the north are left standing." (Henry Longfellow Dana to Mary King Longfellow, September 1938, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 77)

The hurricane destroyed some dominant landscape features at the Longfellow house: elms no longer framed the house; the apple tree, a favored spot for afternoon coffee since at least 1844, was blown over; and the wooded path along the northern boundary, planted by Longfellow in 1845, was no longer a shady refuge.

None of these trees were replaced, although other trees were planted elsewhere over the years. Michael Gaffney, a gardener at the house, recalled planting the progeny of one of Mount Vernon's great tulip trees in the northeast corner of the property, oaks and maples along the west boundary, and a linden tree at the northwest boundary stone. In the early 1950s, Gaffney also installed the brick walk surface leading from the front gate to the front door of the house. Originally a path of packed earth and gravel, covered with boards in winter, its condition necessitated a new surface. This was intended to be flagstone, to match the municipal sidewalk in front of the house. Unable to find an appropriate size of flagstone, Gaffney decided on brick, the expense of which dictated narrowing the walk from eight to five feet. He reinforced the east end of the brick wall and removed ten feet from the west end for "traffic safety." (Gaffney to Berry, January 1976, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 82)

In 1952, two years after the death of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Dana, the Longfellow House Trust initiated action for transfer of the Longfellow property to the NPS. There were two primary reasons for this, both specified in the 1913 "Indenture of Trust." The Longfellow House Trust had an inadequate source of funds for "upkeep, repair, operations and safeguarding in accordance with the express intent of the original grantors." Although the house was still occupied by tenants, as agreed by the Longfellow heirs, there were no longer any Longfellow descendants living in the house. The 1913 Indenture specified that if no children or grandchildren desired to occupy the house, the property was to be conveyed to an existing corporation or one organized for that purpose. For this transfer, negotiations proceeded slowly. In 1952, the NPS did not manage any sites commemorating a writer and did not express interest in the site. (92nd Congress, 2nd Session, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 82)

More changes occurred when Alice Thorp (daughter of Anne Longfellow Thorp) died in 1955. Shortly after her death, the field to the north of the house was sold to Harvard University's Episcopal Divinity School (visible in Figure 16). Over the years, the field was transformed into a cul-de-sac, providing housing sites for students and faculty.

The Longfellow House Trust first approached the New England Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and the National Trust for Historic Preservation before contacting the NPS again

in 1962. The bureau responded with more interest and conducted a field investigation of the property. This work, completed in 1963 as “Longfellow House: A Proposed National Historic Site,” concluded that the Longfellow house:
“is of exceptional importance, and, from the standpoint of national significance, is fully suitable for inclusion in the National Park System…the importance of the house lies in its connection with the poet, Longfellow, who occupied this house as his residence from 1837 to 1882.” (Wittpenn et.al. 1963: 2, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 83)

The 1963 report recommended that the property become a National Historic Site. Its significance was tied to the history, the arts and sciences of the United States, within the subthemes of literature, drama, and music. This recognition of the national significance of the site also articulated the case for its designation as a National Historic Landmark on December 29, 1962. It is currently listed as a National Historic Landmark under Theme X, Architecture and Theme XX, Literature. (NPS 1978, referenced in CLR 1993 vol.I: 83)

In the meantime, Frank Buda, who began as caretaker at the Longfellow House in 1933, continued to care for the grounds and house after Harry Dana’s death, while the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club cared for the formal gardens. In 1967, a cooperative agreement was established between the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club, the Longfellow Trustees, and the Cambridge Heritage Trust in a program to restore the gardens and grounds “to virtually the state in which they were when Longfellow lived at the house.” Toward this end, Diane Kostial McGuire, a landscape architect, prepared “The Garden Book for the Longfellow House-1969” and accompanying plans of existing and proposed conditions. McGuire’s objectives for the project reflected those stated in the legal documents, as well as more recently developed concerns about reduced maintenance resources. (Draft of Longfellow Restoration Program prepared by Brooks Beck, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 83)

Landscape work conducted during 1969-1970 according to McGuire’s plan included the removal of the side beds from the formal garden, paths on the east and west sides of the formal garden, and the path to the gate leading to the barn (Figure 17). The honeysuckle growing by the east piazza was replaced with vinca, the oval outside the library was transformed into a rose garden, and roses were planted along the front balustrade. The rhododendrons then present in the oval were moved to the east porch. Other proposed but unrealized projects included moving the trellis and pediment to its original location, creating a forecourt of lindens on the front lawn, and removing the path along the east piazza.

Despite the National Historic Landmark designation and the continued interest of the NPS, legal problems delayed the actual transfer of the property to the NPS for ten years. The Longfellow House Trust submitted a petition to the Middlesex County Probate Court in 1969. This petition restated the problems with the trust’s management of the property and articulated the selection of the NPS as an appropriate agency for managing the property. Three years later, in 1972, the United States Congress passed a bill authorizing the transfer of the house and 1.98 acres of land to the NPS. The language of the bill reiterated the 1913 Indenture of Trust:
“To preserve in public ownership for the benefit and inspiration of the people of the United States, a site of national significance containing a dwelling which is an outstanding example of colonial architecture and which served as George Washington's headquarters…and from 1837-1882 was the home of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.” (Statutes at Large, 86, 791 (1972), quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 86)

The statute referenced both the merits of the property and the responsibilities of the manager of the site as specified by the Longfellow family in 1913, thus guaranteeing the preservation of the property in accordance with the wishes of the Longfellow family.

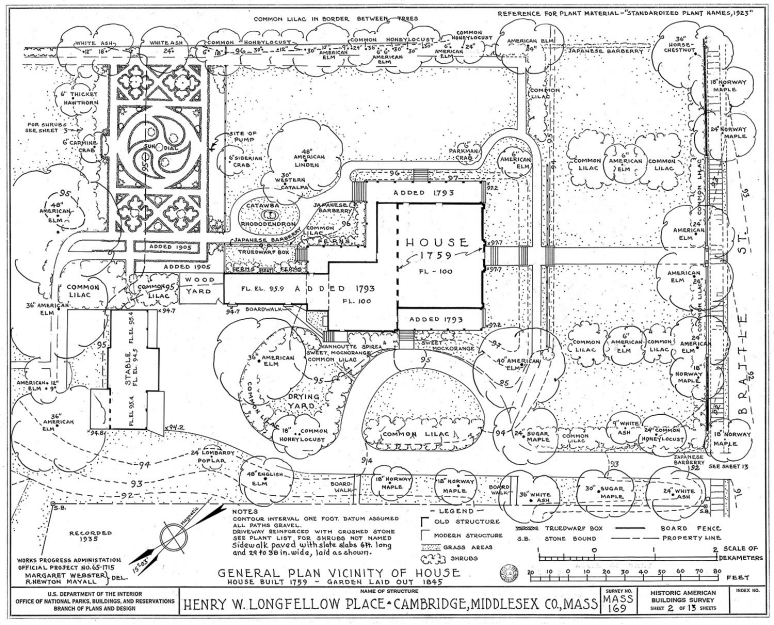


Figure 15. Historic American Buildings Survey "General Plan Vicinity of House, Henry W. Longfellow Place," 1935. (HABS)



Figure 16. Historic American Buildings Survey photograph of the Longfellow garden from the veranda, 1940. (HABS)



Figure 17. Northeastern view of the formal garden prior to restoration, 2003. (OCLP)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, 1972-2026:

Longfellow National Historic Site, as it was originally named, was legislatively established by Public Law 92-475 on October 9, 1972. The NPS assumed management of the Longfellow property in December 1973. The house accommodated administrative and interpretive activities. The grounds were maintained by one gardener, and the Cambridge Garden Club continued its involvement in the maintenance of the formal gardens. In December 2010, the park's name was changed by Congress to Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters to reflect the house's association with both Longfellow and Washington.

After initial operating procedures were established, the NPS undertook research and documentation of the history of both the house and the grounds. The result was a "Historic Structures Report," completed by the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities (SPNEA) in 1975. This report included a section by Elizabeth Banks entitled, "Historic Grounds Report," which focused primarily on Henry W. Longfellow's years at the house. In presenting recommendations for the site, the SPNEA report diverged from earlier assessments: "Our basic recommendation concerning the period to which the building is restored is that it be kept almost exactly as it is. It has changed little since the death of Alice Longfellow in 1928." This was the first report to acknowledge the significance of Alice Longfellow's preservation efforts and modest revisions to the historic property. (Phillips et.al. 1975, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 87)

The "Historic Structures Report" identified many aspects of the property affected by deterioration. In response to this, preservation and repair work was undertaken in 1975 and 1976. The visitor entrance was changed from the front door to the east ell, and a bluestone path was installed through the Trellis Arch Garden to improve the access to the ell. In addition to extensive repairs to the house, the front fence and balustrade on the terrace were repaired, rebuilt, and repainted. The brick wall was repointed. The gate assembly was repaired. Vandalism in 1978 necessitated additional repairs to the Chippendale fence.

In 1978 the "Longfellow National Historic Site, Final Master Plan" was approved. In addition to a statement of significance and a brief history, the "Final Master Plan" identified the architecture, furnishings, archives, and grounds as the four primary resources. It also defined the historic period as 1759-1928 and described the site as "bearing testimony to the development of American taste and

design from 1759 to 1928." In choosing 1928, rather than 1882, as the end date for the historic period, the planning team recognized the recommendations put forth in the "Historic Structures Report" concerning the importance of changes that Alice Longfellow made to the property, both buildings and grounds. Subsequent planning documents for the Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site have upheld these objectives, including the "Resource Management Plan" (1991) and the "Scope of Collections Statement" (1983). (NPS 1978: 2, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 88)

Neither the 1975 "Historic Structures Report" nor the 1978 Master Plan provided sufficient documentation of the history of the grounds to articulate a management plan for the landscape. The Cambridge Garden Club expressed increasing concern with the historic accuracy of the appearance of the grounds and the maintenance capabilities. In response to both the Garden Club's concerns and the lack of documentation, the NPS undertook a comprehensive "Historic Grounds Report" in 1982. This report, completed in draft during 1984, was retitled a "Cultural Landscape Report." Concurrent with this effort, minor grounds work continued: boxwood was renewed by pruning it down from three feet to eight inches, a copy of the sundial was stolen and replaced, and lilacs in the laundry yard were replaced.

The final section of the draft 1984 "Cultural Landscape Report" recommended a restoration program for the grounds. These recommendations, based on existing conditions and available documentation, presented a range of restoration dates, beginning with the Longfellow period and ending with the contemporary circumstances. Several aspects of this plan were implemented between 1985 and 1987. In The Trellis Arch Garden, boxwood was moved to the formal garden and replaced with Japanese barberry. The Trellis Arch Garden was also replanted with ferns, hollyhocks, and clematis. The roses in the oval outside the ell were transplanted to the west border of the formal garden, the vinca beneath the east porch was replaced with Hall's honeysuckle, and the catalpa at the northwest corner of the woodshed was removed. Some of the roses on the front balustrade were replaced with woodbine.

The 1984 draft "Cultural Landscape Report" recommended that the flower garden be expanded to its pre-1968 size, and that its borders be altered to reflect the garden of Henry W. Longfellow's occupancy. However, recommendations poorly supported by the historic record were not executed. These included moving the trellis and pediment to its original location (running east/west from the no longer extant billiard room), surrounding the garden with privet, and planting a buckthorn hedge on the west property line (delineated in 1888). However, the existing formal garden was replanted. The draft "Cultural Landscape Report" provided the following instruction for replanting the formal garden: "Those species depicted in the HABS drawings should be accurate and should be planted accordingly. Flowers in the bed were not solely annuals…These varieties of flowers should once again fill the parterred beds." (Brockway and Mancinelli 1984, quoted in CLR 1993 vol.I: 89)

The draft "Cultural Landscape Report" also recommended methods of facilitating effective landscape maintenance. An irrigation system was installed in 1985, and between 1985 and 1987, the driveway was excavated and resurfaced to correct drainage problems. At the same time, although there was no historic precedent for it, the driveway was edged with granite blocks set in concrete. The 1984 report also recommended the replacement of trees, particularly the elms on the front lawn. In 1987, eight 'Liberty' American elms were planted on the front lawn, in accordance with recommendations in the 1984 report. A ninth elm was planted in the lilac hedge surrounding the laundry yard. Three hazardous trees were removed in 1987 and replaced in kind: a Norway maple along the Brattle Street wall, a honey locust along the east side of the driveway, and a sugar maple on the west side of the driveway. Other in-kind replacements at this time included a sugar maple and a Norway maple on the west side of the driveway, and a little leaf linden at the northwest corner of the property. Paths were also resurfaced with a stone dust/sand mixture.

In 1988, the draft "Cultural Landscape Report" was reviewed by the Acting Superintendent of the Olmsted, Longfellow, and Kennedy National Historic Sites. In general, the review found that the recommendations in the draft were inconsistent with the historic documentation provided in the report. To address this problem, it was decided to make the recommended changes to the draft and produce a final Cultural Landscape Report. Pending the completion of the "Cultural Landscape

Report," the management strategy for the site was shifted from restoration to preservation maintenance. In 1989 the woodshed was rehabilitated to provide a visitors' center. Subsequently, a path was installed from the west gate in the garden fence north to the carriage house. Non-historic granite edging along the driveway was removed from areas where paths meet the driveway.

In 1997, an archaeological investigation was undertaken in the vicinity of the carriage house to collect archaeological and documentary data in order to recommend strategies to protect and preserve significant archaeological resources potentially affected by rehabilitation of the carriage house and its new underground utility corridor to the Longfellow house. The investigation identified hand-wrought nails, charcoal, animal bones, a single copper button, and shards of brick, earthenware, porcelain, bottle glass, window glass, and wood. At the rear of the carriage house, the investigation also identified a buried masonry structure, likely the remains of a historic manure pit associated with the building, and a cobble stone-paved surface, which likely related to an eighteenth-century barn or outbuilding in the area. Subsequently, a small addition to the rear of the carriage house and new gravel maintenance parking area were designed to minimize negative impacts upon the archaeological features. In ca.1997-1998, a ramp for the physically disabled was constructed from the carriage drive/service area to the visitors' center entrance. The installation of this ramp necessitated the removal of the cutting garden, which was installed in 1979-1980.

A geothermal heating system was constructed for the house and carriage house with wells sunk in the carriage drive. At the same time, the carriage drive was resurfaced with stabilized soil to create a well-drained surface that could accommodate regular use by park service and maintenance vehicles. The remaining non-historic granite cobble edge was removed from the carriage drive at this time. The bluestone path installed in the 1970s was removed from the Trellis Arch Garden and the walkway was restored to mown lawn. Other stone dust paths on the site were resurfaced and the front path was widened to its historic width, with its surface being restored to stone dust, which is compatible with the historic surface treatment of packed earth.

An analysis of integrity and significance undertaken in "Cultural Landscape Report for the Longfellow National Historic Site, Volume 2" (1999) acknowledges the property's significance in the area of landscape architecture as an example of the early Colonial Revival style, constructed in 1904-1905, 1925 (local or state significance) and as a work of landscape architect Martha Brookes Hutcheson, who was responsible for the redesign of a formal garden on the property for Alice Longfellow in 1904-1905 (local or state significance). A "Historical Overview and Evaluation of Significance" (1996) also recognizes the significance of the property for its association with the Colonial Revival movement and the early historic preservation movement in the United States. The Longfellow property was an icon of the Colonial Revival movement, and the landscape is an important example of the Colonial Revival style, with contributions by Martha Brookes Brown (later Hutcheson), Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr., and Ellen Shipman.

A capital campaign completed by the Friends of the Longfellow House in 2005 raised $800,000 in public and private donations for the landscape, including a grant of $200,000 from the Save America's Treasures program. This grant was the first landscape project recognized by this initiative. Rehabilitation of the formal garden and house forecourt began the same year, including replacement of hundreds of trees, shrubs, and flowering plants. Historic features, such as the formal garden pergola, missing since the 1930s, fences, and paths were reconfigured or replaced. By 2006, the project was substantially complete, including the reestablishment of missing side planting beds and paths in the formal garden and replacement of the boxwood hedges that surrounded them. Screen planting to the north of the garden was also enhanced to conceal views to adjacent properties. At this time, screen planting was also renewed along the eastern property boundary. In 2007, park staff rebuilt the garden fence and gates to align with the new garden post gates. The fence had been moved in the 1980s to accommodate two large crab-apple trees. In 2006, the park also planted three 'Washington' American elms in the entrance forecourt. The trees were purchased from Sylvan Nursery.

The park restored the arbor and trellis in the Trellis Arch Garden in 2010-2011. The property's balustrades, both free-standing on the front terrace and those associated with the house's piazzas and widow's walk, also underwent off-site restoration over the winter of 2010-2011. Around this time,

the geothermal system was also reengineered, with substantial work in the vicinity of the carriage drive. Rejuvenate pruning of nearly 1,000 lilac shrubs and the addition of supplemental lilac inter-plantings was completed in 2014 in conjunction with a training program hosted by the park and staff from the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation.

Funding was provided for complete replacement of five or six hazardous American elm cultivars in the forecourt in 2013 and again in 2014; however, American elms in the forecourt were only pruned by park staff, with complete removal of only the southwestern-most specimen (due to poor structure) and the specimen to the east of the entrance gate. Only the tree to the east of the entrance gate was replaced with the disease-tolerant Jefferson cultivar of American elm. In the formal garden, four cherries at the western end of the garden were replaced with Sargent cherries. Two crabapples at the eastern end of the garden were also replaced with the 'Coral Burst' cultivar.

Projects were funded to resurface the loose aggregate driveway (11,000 square feet) and footpaths (7,500 square feet) throughout the site. The park is also working with the Historic Preservation Training Center to replace wooden components of the historic fence, columns, and gate along Brattle Street. Many portions of the masonry wall were repointed and components were replaced, including capstones. With this work, the 200-linear-foot fence is in good condition.

Landscape Projects Since 2015:
Since the completion of the original CLI in 2015, numerous landscape projects have been accomplished:
• 2016: repaired historic lattice fence and masonry wall (PMIS 212665)
• 2017: replaced diseased tree and remove dead limbs from other park trees (mostly on west side) (PEPC 74009),
• 2017: improve and replaced deteriorated vegetation (PMIS 162585)
• 2018: repaired historic stone steps (PMIS 209852 / PEPC 72218)
• 2020: replaced fence along east side of property (PEPC 96199)
• 2020: restored Alice's Trellis (PMIS 163251)
• 2023: repaired wall, foundation, and stair masonry (PEPC 118328)
• 2023-2024: mitigated at risk trees and replace deteriorated vegetation (PMIS 305803)
• 2024: tree pruning, removal, and replacement (focused on Elm Forecourt, among others) (PEPC 110078)
• 2025: maintained cultural landscape through youth internship working on deferred maintenance in Formal Gardens (PMIS 330058)

Other landscape projects are proposed, contingent on funding:
• 2026 and 2028: mitigate trees at risk and replace deteriorated vegetation (PMIS 305803)
• 2026-2027: replace driveway and pathways (PMIS 305161 / PEPC 112381)
• 2026-2028: maintain cultural landscape through youth internship working on deferred maintenance in Formal Gardens (PMIS 330058)
• 2029-2030: design and fabricate new waysides and informational signage (PMIS 348004)

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Landscape	Leisure-Passive (Park)		Yes	Yes	No
Defense	Military Facility (Post)		Yes	No	No
Domestic (Residential)	Multiple Dwelling	Multiple Dwelling-Other	Yes	No	No
Recreation/Culture	Museum (Exhibition Hall)	Museum (Exhibition Hall)-Other	No	Yes	Yes
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	Yes
Landscape	Plaza/Public Space (Square)	Formal Garden	Yes	Yes	No
Domestic (Residential)	Secondary Structure (Garage)		Yes	Yes	No

Public Access:

Public Access: Other Restrictions

Public Access Narrative:

The gardens and grounds are free and open to the public from dawn to dusk. The house is open mid-May through October. Admission to the Longfellow house is by guided tour offered Fridays through Mondays throughout the open season. The park also offers education programs and special events throughout the year. The park archives are open for researchers by appointment.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: No Survey Conducted

Ethnographic Narrative:

A survey to document if there is ethnographic significance associated with the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site property has not been conducted to date. Prior to European settlement, the park was part of the territory for the Massachusetts tribe, part of the Algonquian group of American Indians. The site is located on what was known as the path to Watertown during colonial times, which has its origins as an American Indian trail from what is Charlestown to what is now Watertown, following the course of the Charles River.

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The historic integrity of Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1742-1972, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2026. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today, including natural systems and features, spatial organization, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, and small-scale features. Due to the site's lengthy period of significance, the landscape has undergone many changes, but extant landscape features that define the property today still represent a continuum that coherently reflects aspects of each historical period.

Extant features dating to the period of significance are numerous, including the defining spatial arrangements: the forecourt, carriage drive and service area, east lawn, and formal garden, as well as pedestrian circulation routes. Many of the original lilacs and the European linden to the east of the house remain from the historic period. The two buildings extant at the end of the period of significance remain, including the Longfellow house and carriage house/barn. The view from the forecourt to the Charles River over Longfellow Memorial Park remains but is partially obscured by vegetation. Remaining small-scale features on the site are limited to historic fences and gates, the formal garden sundial, and the front balustrade.

Since 1972, the landscape has remained largely intact, with the exception of the decline of the formal garden and its associated features followed by its restoration. Other character-defining features, such as vegetation, have been retained or have been restored following damage or loss, as is the case with the elm-lined forecourt, planting buffer along the eastern property boundary, and the formal garden planting beds. The formal garden pergola and its associated benches were reconstructed in 2005-2006. New additions are limited to interpretive and wayfinding signage, flood lighting, chain-link perimeter security fencing, and utilities, all associated with the property's current function as a national historic site open to the public.

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on a 1742-1972 period of significance for the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape.

While the evaluation of integrity is often a subjective judgment, it must be grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to significance. A basic test of integrity is whether a participant in the historic period would recognize the property and its features as they exist today. If the most noteworthy historic residents of Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site – among them John Vassall, Esq., George Washington, Andrew Craigie, Henry W. Longfellow, and Alice Longfellow – were to return today, would they recognize the property as their home?

The following section evaluates the seven aspects of integrity in consideration of historic periods related to the significance of the property: Social History (1742-1781), Architecture and Landscape Architecture (1759-1928), Military History (1775-1776), Literature (1837-1882), and Conservation (1837-1972).

Location:
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The Vassall house was completed in 1759 on the north side of Brattle Street overlooking the Charles River. At that time, the house stood on a six and one-half acre lot, including the two-acre core area surrounding the house that remains intact today. By the time George Washington vacated the property, the house remained in place on the north side of Brattle Street with commanding views of the Charles River. Upon Longfellow's death, the house, carriage house, carriage drive (first documented in 1844), and the original 1847 footprint of the formal garden were intact. The house, carriage house, carriage drive, paths, footprint of the expanded Longfellow formal garden, and the Trellis Arch Garden are extant today.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. Details of landscape design from 1759 through the Revolutionary War era are scarce. However, the most prominent design features of the site thought to have existed at this time, the terraced front lawn with stairs and elm forecourt, remain intact. The focal point of the site, the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House, clearly conveys its significance as a high-style, Georgian-period house that was expanded in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Although the property is substantially diminished in size, the ornamental grounds around the house remain largely as Henry W. Longfellow experienced them, with only the loss of the fruit orchard on the east lawn, the linden avenue along the eastern property boundary, the wooded path along the northern property boundary, the bench around an apple tree, and the summerhouse at the northern-most corner of the property. Despite these losses, the relationship of the house to the surrounding landscape remains, including the terraced front lawn with stairs, elm forecourt, and lilac plantings along Brattle Street. The east lawn remains open, bordered on the north by the original footprint of the formal garden, although the design of the formal garden has changed since Henry W. Longfellow's tenure. The carriage drive, service area, and laundry yard remain in their Longfellow era configuration.

Elements of the Colonial Revival style landscape and garden remain on the property following an extensive garden rehabilitation in 2005-2006. The formal garden and the Trellis Arch Garden are intact with their historic designs. Similarly, structures, circulation patterns, and small-scale features on the property remain intact. The important view from the house to the Charles River remains partially intact, although the integrity of this feature has been diminished by tree planting along the Charles River and the addition of the Longfellow monument to Longfellow Memorial Park, which partially obstructed this view. The landscape retains integrity of design for all of its historical associations.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. The setting of the original Vassall house has changed substantially since its construction with the gradual subdivision of the property from ninety acres owned by John Vassall, Esq., to just under two acres today. With this subdivision, the composition of the neighborhood has changed from a few large, landed estates to many residences on smaller urban parcels. Similarly, the two Vassall barns thought to have been associated with the house in 1759 have been lost.

During the Revolutionary War, the setting of the house remained similar to what existed at its time of construction. Properties along the Road to Watertown (now Brattle Street) extended from the salt meadows of the Charles River north to a ridge. Most of the mansions faced the river on the northern side of the road and thus guaranteed favorable aspect, access, and drainage. The landscape today does not retain integrity of setting from the Vassall era through the Revolutionary War era.

In 1910 construction of the Charles River dam eliminated tidal fluctuations, permitting building and planting on the tidal flats of the Charles River. The watercourse and pond with island that were once located on the parcel to the west of the Longfellow parcel were lost after Henry W. Longfellow's death. Nonetheless, the property retains the same relationship to the surrounding cultural landscape that existed during Henry W. Longfellow's association with the property, which was characterized by a developing residential community on smaller lots than had existed during previous historical periods. The landscape retains some integrity of setting to the Henry W. Longfellow era and full integrity of setting to Alice Longfellow's tenure and the Longfellow Trust period.

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. All original landscape materials from the time of construction of the house through the Revolutionary War era time have been lost with the exception of the masonry portions of the Brattle Street fence and possibly the stone front steps.

While some materials have been lost since Longfellow's occupancy, some specimen vegetation remains, along with numerous built features, including the balustrade, fences and gates, house, and carriage house. Rehabilitation has replaced some of the historic fabric, but overall enough original material remains to retain some integrity of materials to Henry W. Longfellow's period of occupancy.

Many materials remain from the time of Alice Longfellow's garden improvements, including woody vegetation and numerous built features that existed during her father's tenure. Reconstructed or replaced features, including the pergola, sundial, path surfaces, and some plant material, do not retain integrity of materials. However, enough original material remains from Alice Longfellow's tenure to retain integrity of materials.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. No above ground built features aside from the house, masonry portions of the Brattle Street fence, and possibly the front steps remain from the time the house was constructed through the Revolutionary War era.

Workmanship is visible in the carriage loop, which is an example of a hand-made, packed, and groomed clay circular drive. Workmanship from Henry W. Longfellow's era is visible in some landscape features on the site, including the configuration of paths, stairs, the front fence, and the placement of some plant material. This is due largely to effective maintenance that helps to convey the design intent and craftsmanship of the period of significance. Similarly, workmanship from Alice Longfellow's period of occupancy is visible in many landscape features, including the configuration of paths, fences and gates, placement of plant material, and garden ornaments. The landscape retains integrity of workmanship to Henry W. Longfellow and Alice Longfellow's occupancy.

Feeling:
Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The front lawn area (forecourt) retains some integrity of the date of construction of the house through the Revolutionary War. The siting of the house on two terraces overlooking the river, the relationship with Brattle Street, and the elm-lined forecourt, which is thought have been added by this time, remain as key relationships extant at this time.

The loss of barns that are thought to have characterized the agrarian residential landscape during this time constitutes the most significant losses to integrity of feeling from this time. However, the site landscape is evocative of the sense of place created by Longfellow. Taken together, the property's extant historic features convey the property's historic character at this time. The landscape retains integrity of feeling from Henry W. Longfellow's occupancy through the subsequent Colonial Revival style garden improvement undertaken by Alice Longfellow and perpetuated during the Trust period. The neighborhood surrounding the house largely developed in the late nineteenth century and does not significantly detract from the property's feeling. The southerly views to the Charles River, although altered by the construction of Memorial Drive in the early twentieth century, are preserved by the presence of Longfellow Memorial Park on the south side of Brattle Street.

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The house gives the site its architectural significance as a well-preserved example of a design that represents high artistic ideals in the Georgian style. The park retains the house and core area of the property that gives the site its association with Washington and the American Revolution. The NPS continues to interpret the property to highlight its historical associations with Washington and the American Revolution.

The site also retains many features, including the furnished house, carriage house, circulation patterns, stairs, balustrade, Brattle Street fence, and some vegetation that give the site its association with Henry W. Longfellow. The park continues to interpret the property to highlight its historical associations with Longfellow as well. Similarly, the park retains the core area landscape, formal garden, and Trellis Arch Garden that give the site its landscape architectural significance as a design of a master that represents high artistic ideals in the Colonial Revival style.

LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS AND FEATURES

The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI, formerly List of Classified Structures) names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register

eligibility for the historic period (1742-1972), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic and Existing Conditions:
Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. The underlying hydrology and geology of the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape affected development of the landscape through the property's period of significance. Although the site slopes only gently up from south to north, the slight rise in elevation from the Charles River accommodated the siting of the mansion around six hundred feet to the north of the river and its former associated tidal flats. Historically, these flats were valuable for pasture and their flooding ensured that the view of the river from the house would remain intact, as no buildings could be constructed on this land. The construction of the Charles River dam in 1910 eliminated tidal fluctuations in the river and enabled the growth of woody vegetation and development on the land between Brattle Street and the river.

Historically, a small stream traversed the property from northeast to southwest, where it met a second stream before entering the Charles River to the south. This stream was extant on the property during Henry W. Longfellow's tenure, when he constructed a small rustic bridge over the watercourse. After Longfellow's death, the historic alignment of this stream was transferred outside of the core area of the property with the sale of lots to the north and west of the house shortly after Longfellow's death. Regrading associated with new building construction eliminated evidence of this hydrologic feature on the adjoining properties.

Mineral debris left behind by the Wisconsin glacier is the parent material of the soils of Middlesex County. The landscape of the county reveals features of glacial deposition and erosion from the advance and retreat of past continental ice sheets. The direction of ice movement, as discerned from bedrock striations and drumlin orientations, was generally from northwest to southeast. General soils maps for Middlesex County show that surficial soils in the vicinity of the property consist of Merrimac-Udorthents, which comprise the lowland areas along the Charles River, and Charlton-Paxton, which comprises the upland areas of north Cambridge and Somerville. Detailed soil maps show that the site's soils are comprised of Merrimac-Urban land complex, which is characterized by very deep, somewhat excessively drained Merrimac and similar soils and areas of urban land on broad plains. The development of the designed residential landscape that characterizes the site today resulted in significant changes to soil composition on and around the property, including the loss of native vegetation.

Landscape Characteristic:

This section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding List of Classified Structures names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1759-1928), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource.

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition (to 1972):
Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. Changes in property size during the period of significance have greatly impacted

the spatial organization of the landscape. The early, Vassall era (1759-1774) organization of the landscape, which was comprised of six and one-half acres immediately surrounding the house (reduced to just two acres by 1774), reflected agricultural uses. As documented on a 1777 plan by Henry Pelham, two barns stood to the north of the house, with gardens beyond. These gardens are represented on the map in a layout that reflects formal geometric garden styles prevalent in England in the early to mid-eighteenth century. By 1781, the two acres surrounding the house that existed late in the Vassall era were assimilated into a forty-seven-acre parcel. At this time, the deed documents a field surrounded by a fence, which is the first reference to a constructed demarcation of the landscape.

Little documentation of the organization of the grounds remains from the Revolutionary War era (1775-1776). When the estate was confiscated for war efforts, it consisted of the mansion with four outbuildings: a necessary house (privy), a wood house, barns, as well as a farm house east of the garden. Revolutionary-era deeds suggest that prior uses of the landscape, including garden and pasture, halted during the war.

When Andrew Craigie purchased a 140-acre estate from Thomas Russell in 1792, the property included numerous outbuildings. By the time of Craigie's death in 1819, five of the six original outbuildings were extant and five new outbuildings stood on the property. The arrangement of buildings defined a service yard to the north of the house, including a covered walkway to the north/east of the house. Documents from Elizabeth Craigie's tenure are the first to show the elm forecourt in place at the front of the house, although it is speculated that this feature dates to an earlier era.

During the Longfellow era (1843-1928), the property was diminished in size to just five acres. The Longfellows removed unneeded Craigie era outbuildings, leaving only the woodshed and the barn, which they rebuilt as a carriage house in 1844. The removal of the outbuildings resulted in a simplified service yard. At the same time, Longfellow worked to retain the elm forecourt in spite of its infestation by canker worms. Beyond the house forecourt and service yard, plans from the Longfellow era show that the larger estate included a curvilinear path that led across the property to a summerhouse. Along the eastern side of the property, Longfellow constructed a more formal tree-lined walk with an orchard on the east lawn. Longfellow's lyre shaped garden, constructed in 1844, and lilac plantings also helped to define different uses and spaces within the landscape. This included a lilac-hedged laundry yard to the west of the house.

During Alice Longfellow's tenure, the only significant changes in spatial relationships on the property were the addition of the Trellis Arch Garden to the east of the woodshed and the redesign of the formal garden, which was expanded under her tenure with additional planting beds along the south and west sides of the garden, realignment of her father's trellis and pediment, and the addition of a new fence along the southern edge of the garden and the pergola to the eastern edge of the garden.

During the Longfellow House Trust period (1913-1972), a new green chain link fence was installed on the eastern boundary between the house and the Cabot property in 1937. The following year a hurricane destroyed some dominant landscape features at the Longfellow house: elms no longer framed the house; the apple tree, a favored spot for afternoon coffee since at least 1844, was blown over; and the wooded path along the northern boundary, planted by Longfellow in 1845, was no longer a shady refuge. None of these trees were replaced, although other trees were planted elsewhere over the years. In the late 1950s the field to the north of the house was sold to Harvard University's Episcopal Divinity School, after which the field was transformed to a cul-de-sac, providing housing sites for students and faculty. In 1960 a classroom addition was built onto the back of the Dana-Longfellow House property at 113 Brattle.

Evaluation:
The existing spatial organization of the landscape – comprised of the forecourt, east lawn, carriage drive, laundry yard, service area, formal garden, and the Trellis Arch Garden – is a character-defining feature of the site that retains integrity to Henry W. Longfellow's occupancy (1837-1882) and later Colonial Revival landscape improvements undertaken by his daughter (1904-1905, 1925).

There have been no substantial changes to the spatial organization of the 1.98-acre portion of the site that remains from Longfellow's original five acres since the end of the period of significance, aside from loss of the orchard on the east lawn, which is a distinct landscape space (Figures 18 and 19).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Forecourt Space	173270	Contributing					No
East Lawn Space	173272	Contributing					No
Carriage Drive	173274	Contributing					No
Laundry Yard Space	173276	Contributing					No
Service Area Space	173278	Contributing					No
Formal Garden Space	173280	Contributing					No
Trellis Arch Garden Space	173282	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 18. Lilac hedges and elm trees define the forecourt space fronting the Longfellow house, view looking north. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 19. Formal garden space, view looking east.. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic Condition (to 1972):
Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. Land use during the period of significance reflects the growth of the surrounding city, with the property transitioning from agricultural use, to a rural estate, and then an urban estate. The West End of Cambridge was initially settled and developed as farms. Colonel Vassall's property included pastures, cultivated land, and a woodlot. During the Revolutionary War, it seems that agricultural uses of the property were discontinued. By the Craigie era, the acreage associated with the mansion was returned to farming on a limited basis, as Andrew and Elizabeth Craigie transformed the property into a picturesque farm, or ferme ornee. Craigie made grand improvements to the grounds with extensive tree and shrub plantings, which were witness to his support of the development of horticulture in the Boston area. In keeping with the times, Craigie also maintained a sizeable collection of fruit trees. After Andrew Craigie's death, the grounds were reduced in size and took on a primarily ornamental character, which was a use continued through the Longfellow family's ownership.

Evaluation:
Today, the grounds remain ornamental and educational in nature, associated with the use of the property as an historic furnished house museum. Land use, as the ornamental grounds of a former residential property, retains overall historic integrity to the Longfellow and Trust periods of stewardship, although not to earlier periods of ownership when the property served agricultural, military, and residential uses.

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic Condition (to 1972):
Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). There is little early documentation of the topography (defined as constructed changes to natural landforms, as opposed to natural topography) surrounding the house, aside from the terracing at the house front, which has characterized the property since construction of the Vassall house in 1759. These terraces were intended to elevate the building from the surrounding landscape along Brattle Street, giving the house favorable conditions of aspect, views, access, and drainage.

Evaluation:
The two lawn terraces to the south of the Longfellow house are important topographic character-defining features that retain integrity to the entire period of significance (Figure 20).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Front Terraces	173268	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 20. The front terrace gives the house an elevated position, view looking north-northeast. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition (to 1972):
Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. There is limited documentation of vegetation on the site in the early years following construction of the Vassall house in 1759. The 1777 plan of Boston by Henry Pelham shows a formal garden to the rear (north) of the Vassall house, which was presumably the location of both the property's ornamental and vegetable gardens. During this time, portions of the property away from the house were likely typical of an agricultural working landscape. By 1792, Andrew Craigie had purchased a wide variety of trees and shrubs for the grounds of his home, which he and Elizabeth Craigie were developing as an ornamental agricultural estate. The following year, in 1792, Craigie added numerous fruit trees to the property. The elm forecourt is also first referenced late in the Craigie era, although its specific layout was first documented by Henry W. Longfellow in 1844.

By 1843, Longfellow laid out a "linden avenue" on the eastern side of the property and planted an acacia (locust) hedgerow the following year. In 1844, Longfellow planted fruit trees in a quincunx pattern on the east lawn and a lilac hedge at the front of the property, bordering the Brattle Street fence. Longfellow's lyre-shaped formal garden bordered by boxwood, was added to the property in 1844, although this garden was replaced with a rectilinear formal flower garden designed by Richard Dolben in 1847. Longfellow added the wooded path to the northern end of the property in 1846. In 1859, additional fruit trees were added to the property, possibly to the north of the carriage house. The advent of the lawn mower in the 1850s undoubtedly had an impact upon management of the front lawn, which thereafter was maintained as clipped turf. After the addition of the balustrade on the crest of the lower terrace, woodbine grew on this feature by 1880. With an ideal southern exposure, by 1900, grape vines grew on the southern façade of the carriage house. Alice undertook additional planting of herbaceous vegetation and perennials in the formal garden in 1904-1905 and again in 1925, with the addition of small, ornamental trees to the garden. Alice's boxwood-lined garden was constructed in 1905 to the east of the woodshed.

Changes to vegetation during the Longfellow Trust period (1928-1972) included significant damage from the 1938 hurricane and a 1969 attempt to restore the grounds to their appearance during Henry W. Longfellow's time, including removal of side beds from the formal garden, removal of honeysuckle from the east piazza, replanting the oval outside the library to a rose garden, and planting roses along the front balustrade.

Evaluation:
In 1985, boxwood was moved from the Trellis Arch Garden to the formal garden and hedges in the Trellis Arch Garden were replaced with barberry. The Trellis Arch Garden was also replanted with ferns, hollyhocks, and clematis. In 1985, the roses in the oval were transplanted to the west side of the formal garden and the honeysuckle was replaced below the east porch. Some of the roses in front of the balustrade were also replaced with woodbine. Other changes include replacement and minor relocation of the elms that characterize the forecourt, replacement of some lilacs along the Brattle Street fence and carriage drive, and replacement of herbaceous and woody vegetation in the formal garden planting beds, associated with the 2005-2006 restoration of this garden.

Character-defining vegetation features include the elm-lined forecourt, a large European linden at the northeast corner of the Longfellow house, lilac hedges along the Brattle Street fence and carriage drive and loop, formal garden planting beds, and the Trellis Arch Garden planting beds (Figures 21, 22, 23, and 24).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Elm Forecourt	173284	Contributing					No
European Linden	173286	Contributing					No
Lilac Hedges	173288	Contributing					No
Formal Garden Beds	173290	Contributing					No
Trellis Arch Garden Beds	173292	Contributing					No
Grape Vines on Carriage House	173294	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 21. A massive European linden dominates the east lawn, view looking southwest. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 22. Plantings in the formal garden, view looking southwest. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 23. Lilacs border the carriage drive loop along the west side of the house, view looking north. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 24. View looking north at the circular walk that surrounds a rhododendron. The Trellis Arch Garden is visible at left. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to 1972):
Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. Vehicular circulation patterns on the property remained undocumented until the early nineteenth century, when perspective drawings first show a lane/path leading from Brattle Street straight to the front door. Because the front steps are set into the original terrace upon which the house rests, it is likely that this path dates to the construction of the house. Vehicular circulation patterns are first documented in the 1840s, when Longfellow took ownership of the property, and included a carriage drive that extended from Brattle Street to the north along the western side of the house, with a wide carriage turn-around at the west door. With the addition of the new carriage house in 1844, plans show that the carriage drive was extended to this new building. Also by 1844 the oval path outside the woodshed, the linear path between the terraces, and the linear path along the eastern property boundary were extant. During Longfellow's ownership, curvilinear paths also traversed the grounds to the north of the house, connecting Longfellow's lyre-shaped garden to the summerhouse at the northern-most corner of the property. With the addition of the formal garden in 1847, the principal paths in the vicinity of this garden took on a rectilinear organization, much as they remain today, with modifications based only upon the Hutcheson redesign of the garden in 1904-1905. With the subdivision and sale of outlying portions of the property after Longfellow's death, the curvilinear paths to the north of the house and Longfellow's wooded path have been lost. In the early 1950s, Michael Gaffney, a gardener at the house, paved the path to the front door with brick to remedy muddy conditions. In the process, he narrowed the path from eight to five feet.

Evaluation:
The path to the front door was restored to its historic width and paved with stonedust in the early 2000s. Other
paths on the property remain in their Longfellow-era configuration. The carriage drive and loop remain as they existed during Longfellow's time, with only the addition of a gravel-paved maintenance vehicle parking area to the west of the carriage house. To accommodate universal accessibility, a small concrete-paved pad was added to the entrance to the carriage house and a concrete walk was built from the carriage drive to the northern end of the woodshed (visitors center). The oldest documented circulation feature of the property, the front terrace steps, remains in its historic location and configuration. Most character-defining circulation features that were extant around the house during the historic period remain in their historic configurations, including the carriage drive and loop, front steps, and path systems (see Figures 20, 23, and 24).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Carriage Drive Loop	173296	Contributing	040148		Asset	34401	Yes
Front Steps	173298	Contributing	040152		Asset	34399	Yes
Front Entry Path	173300	Contributing	040153		Asset	34400	Yes
East Lawn Paths	173302	Contributing	040153		Asset	34400	Yes
Formal Garden Paths	173304	Contributing	040153		Asset	34400	Yes
Concrete Pad, Southeast Corner of Carriage House	173306	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Concrete Walk to Visitor Entrance	173310	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 23. Northern view of the carriage drive loop along the west side of the house, 2015. (OCLP)



Figure 24. Northern view of the circular walk planted with rhododendron to the east of the Trellis Arch Garden, which is visible at left, 2015. (OCLP)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to 1972):
Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. Changes to buildings and structures on the property during the period of significance were numerous and related principally to the addition and removal of service buildings on the property. These changes were largely associated with the transition in use of the property from an agricultural estate to an urban residence. The earliest plans of the property show the buildings as they were configured during Col. John Vassall's tenure and during the American Revolution, with the 1759 house facing Brattle Street and two barns to the north of the house. The Craigie era saw modifications to the house, with the addition of covered porches (piazzas) to the east and west sides of the house in the early 1790s. Andrew Craigie also constructed an ell to the rear of the house in the early 1790s. Craigie added new buildings elsewhere on the property, including a coach house with building attached, a granary, a greenhouse, a farmhouse, and a workshop. By 1840, ancillary buildings on the property numbered ten. Henry W. Longfellow removed nearly all of these buildings, keeping only the barn (later replaced by the carriage house in 1844) and the woodshed, which was connected to the northern end of the house. In 1844, Longfellow added Greek Revival detailing to the mansion, including balustrades to the widow's walk and piazzas. A billiard room was added to the woodshed in 1858 (removed in 1905). The summerhouse, which existed at the northern-most corner of the property by 1791 and remained during Longfellow's tenure, was lost with subdivision and sale of a portion of the property after his death.

Evaluation:
Despite the loss of the summerhouse, buildings and structures on the site remain as they existed at the end of the period of significance. The carriage house was rehabilitated into offices with a large conference room, and in 1989 the woodshed was converted into a visitor center. The exteriors of both buildings retain their historic appearance. Character-defining buildings and structures on the property include the house and the carriage house (Figures 25 and 26).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House (Longfellow House)	173312	Contributing	000870		Location	63778	Yes
Carriage House and Barn	173314	Contributing	000871		Location	63779	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 25. The Longfellow house from the east lawn, view looking northwest. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 26. View looking northeast at the carriage house, grape vines, and service yard. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition (to 1972):
A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. Southerly views of the river from the front of the Longfellow House have been an important feature of the property since its initial construction, aided by the grounds that were likely mostly open in the property's history, in keeping with its early agricultural use.

The grounds between the house and the Charles River were likely devoid of woody vegetation as a result of the tidal salt marsh that once existed in this area. After the river dam was built in 1910, vegetation began to fill in. Additionally, new houses along Longfellow Memorial Park in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, new street trees along the Charles River linear park system, and the construction of the Longfellow Memorial in the 1920s partially obstructed the view of the river and landscape, which Longfellow had endeavored to preserve.

Closer to the house, elms framed the view from the street to the house, on axis with the main entrance gate in the Brattle Street fence. With the construction of the formal garden in 1847, views within the garden were organized along the perimeter paths and paths separating planting beds. The addition of the formal garden pergola in 1904-1905 further focused the cross-axial view within the garden and the view approaching the eastern end of the garden.

Evaluation:
Since the end of the period of significance, the character-defining views have remained largely intact, including views within the formal garden and on its approach from the south. Both the Longfellow House Trust and the NPS have worked to maintain the historic elm-lined forecourt that frames the view to the south. Despite these efforts, the natural process of maturation and death, and some difficulty establishing replacement plant material has made maintaining the forecourt difficult. Character-defining views on the property include the view from the house front to the Charles River and structured views within the formal garden (Figure 27, see also Figure 20).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View South to Charles River from House	173316	Contributing					No
Views within Formal Garden Area	173318	Contributing					No
View North from the Brattle Street Gate to the House	211096	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 27. Southern view from the front steps and across the forecourt and Brattle Street gate, to Longfellow Park and the Charles River. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: **Small Scale Features**

Historic Condition (to 1972):
Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Historic evidence of early small-scale features on the property is minimal, with reference to only a few features prior to the Longfellow era. These early features were both aesthetic and functional. In 1794, Craigie purchased cedar rails and posts, likely to construct a fence. Craigie replaced the central portion of the brick wall along Brattle Street with an ornamental wooden Chippendale-style fence in 1815. Presumably there were other small-scale features associated with his estate, given that Craigie had a keen interest in developing the estate as an ornamental farm. However, they are not historically documented.

During the Longfellow era, documentary evidence shows that there were two rustic bridges that crossed the stream to the north of the house. An 1845 painting by N. Vautin shows an apple tree with swing surrounded by an elaborate seat to the east of the house. Also in the 1840s, Longfellow installed a pediment and trellis, extending off the house in an eastward orientation. In 1872, Longfellow also installed the balustrade on the crest of the lower front terrace. In 1904, Longfellow's pediment and trellis were reoriented to a north-south orientation by his daughter Alice. In 1904-1905, Alice also added a wooden pergola to the formal garden along with portions of new fence around the formal garden, including a three-foot high lattice fence in the historic location of her father's pediment and trellis. In 1925, Alice added a bench and sundial to the formal garden. In 1905, Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Jr. designed a new wooden arbor-bench-trellis arch structure for his aunt Alice, which was constructed on the eastern side of the woodshed.

The formal garden pergola was removed in 1932-1934, and in 1937 a chain link fence was added to the eastern property boundary. In the 1950s, a gardener on the property removed ten feet from the western side of the Brattle Street wall for traffic safety.

Evaluation:
In 1984, a copy of the replica armillary sphere sundial was stolen and replaced, although the base remains original. The formal garden pergola was reconstructed in 2005-2006, along with portions of the fences and gates surrounding the formal garden.

Small-scale character-defining features extant on the property today include the Trellis Arch Garden arbor-bench-trellis arch structure, the front terrace balustrade, the Brattle Street fence, the formal garden fence, the formal garden trellis, the formal garden sundial and base, the formal garden bench, and the reconstructed formal garden pergola (Figures 28, 29, 30, and 31). Directional and interpretive signage and ground-mounted flood lights were added to the property in the twentieth century to accommodate visitor access and promote interpretive programs. Signage is located throughout the site, both on freestanding bases and mounted to site features, including fences. Two flood lights located in the forecourt area are directed at the front façade of the house.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Arbor-Bench-Trellis Arch Structure	173320	Contributing	040145		Asset	34397	Yes
Front Terrace Balustrade	173322	Contributing	040146		Asset	34394	Yes
Brattle Street Fence	173324	Contributing	040147		Asset	34395	Yes
Formal Garden Fences	173328	Contributing	040150		Asset	34396	Yes
Formal Garden Lattice	173330	Contributing	040150		Asset	34396	Yes
Formal Garden Sundial	173332	Contributing	040151		Asset	34398	Yes
Formal Garden Bench	173334	Contributing					No
Formal Garden Pergola	173336	Contributing	530015				No
Ground-Mounted Flood Lights	173338	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Directional and Interpretive Signage	173342	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 28. View looking east at the formal garden pergola. OCLP 2026)



Figure 29. View of the formal garden sundial and podium. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 30. The balustrade marks the edge of the front terrace, view looking west. (OCLP 2026)



Figure 31. Brattle Street fence with prominent piers marking the main entrance. (OCLP 2026)

Landscape Characteristic: **Archeological Sites**

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report. For detailed archeological information refer to the park's 2025 National Register documentation, or contact park staff. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 53-63)

Machine and archeological excavations have uncovered structural and landscape features that may yield new and significant information about the historical occupation of the property ca.1655–1900. Archeological research also has provided information about the property's pre-contact occupation that provides greater time depth, interpretive diversity, and significance to its human use before European contact. The property is currently inventoried as an archeological site by the NPS and the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) as the Longfellow House Site, but the tripartite designation Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House Site (CRIS No. LONG00001.000, MHC No. CAM-HA-8, contributing site) better reflects the property's broader historical occupation as manifested in the identified archeological features. Given the property-wide distribution of the archeological data, the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House Site boundaries are coterminous with the property boundaries. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 53)

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow House Site	211097	Contributing		LONG 00001.000			No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 5

Next Assessment Due Date: 09/28/2031

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/28/2026

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall condition of the Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters NHS Landscape is evaluated as "Good." The property shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The property's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 06/23/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The overall landscape is well-maintained and in good condition.

Condition Assessment: Good

Assessment Date: 09/15/2015

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The landscape at Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site meets the current definition for "good" condition: the landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance or deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The landscape's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Impacts

Type of Impact: Adjacent Lands

Other Impact: n/a

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: If trees are left unpruned or new trees are planted along the Charles River linear park or within Longfellow Memorial Park, views of the Charles River from Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site may be further restricted.

Date Identified: 08/19/2015

Resolved? No

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Other Impact: n/a

External or Internal: Both Internal and External

Impact Narrative: There is deterioration of the screen plantings at the west side of the property due to construction and lack of adequate care, watering, weeding, fertilizer, and pruning.

Date Identified: 08/19/2015

Resolved? Yes

Type of Impact: Pests/Diseases

Other Impact: n/a

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Hemlock Woolly Adelgid has not yet arrived at Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, but the disease may affect the site's hemlock trees in the north border.

Date Identified: 08/19/2015

Resolved? No

Type of Impact:	Removal/Replacement
Other Impact:	n/a
External or Internal:	Internal
Impact Narrative:	Difficulty in perpetuating the design intent of the original, ten-tree planting in the elm forecourt to the south of the house has resulted in diminished overall integrity of this feature.
Date Identified:	08/19/2015
Resolved?	Yes

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Document Type:	Cultural Landscape Report Part 2
Document Date:	2021-06-01
Title:	Cultural Landscape Report for Longfellow House - Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site: Updated Treatment Plan and Record of Treatment
IRMA Link:	

Narrative:

In 2021 a “Cultural Landscape Report, Updated Treatment Plan and Record of Treatment” was completed by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Consistent with legislation and planning documents, the landscape treatment philosophy for Longfellow House– Washington’s Headquarters NHS is to enhance the historic character of the landscape by replacing missing historic features to convey the site’s expansive period of significance while accommodating changes necessary for maintenance, sustainability, and interpretive needs. The intent is not to reflect the exact appearance of the landscape at the end of the period of significance in 1928 [now 1742-1972 per 2025 National Register], but to convey the landscape character of the colonial period, the Longfellow era, and the Colonial Revival movement. (CLR 2021 vol.3: 46)

The Forecourt will retain its colonial-era spatial organization and serve as an entry point for visitors. Elm trees evoking the colonial era and lilacs related to the Longfellow era will thrive on either side of the front entry path. In the East Lawn, the historic Longfellow linden will be preserved, and the lawn maintained for social and cultural events hosted by the site. Both Alice’s Garden and the Formal Garden will be preserved according to their historic plans, exemplifying Alice Longfellow’s impact on the property. Structures and small-scale features present in the gardens will complement the lush planting beds. Visitors will enjoy the Colonial Revival design of the Formal Garden inspired by Martha Brookes Hutcheson and Ellen Biddle Shipman. The Carriage Drive and carriage loop will remain the sole vehicular circulation features on site, leading from Brattle Street to the Carriage House. The Carriage House will remain rehabilitated as office space for park staff and a venue to host public programs. (CLR 2021 vol.3: 46)

The Longfellow House-Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site landscape will be rehabilitated to convey the significance of its resources over a lengthy period of significance (1759-1928) [revised to 1742-1972, per 2025 National Register]. The year 1928 will serve as a useful and objective point of reference in all rehabilitation tasks, especially when considering the replacement of missing landscape features. This approach, using 1928 as a well-documented point in the site’s period of significance, is not intended to support the restoration of the landscape to that point in time. Rather, this year will help to avoid the juxtaposition of landscape features that never co-existed in time. In the spirit of rehabilitation according to the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards, sensitive changes or modifications to the landscape may be appropriate when those changes are supportive of continuing or new park programming or use for this historic property. (CLR 2021 vol.3: 46)

Treatment Type:	Rehabilitation
Treatment Completed:	Yes

Bibliography and Supplemental Information

Bibliography:

Citation Author	Citation Title	Year of Publication	Citation Publisher	Citation Type	Citation Location	Citation Number
Berg, Shary Page	Cultural Landscape Report for Longfellow National Historic Site, Volume 2: Analysis of Significance and Integrity	1999	National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation			
Booth, Ann	National Register of Historic Place Inventory-Nomination Form for Longfellow National Historic Site	1977	Department of the Interior, National Park Service			
Brockway, Lucinda A. and Isabel Mancinelli	Draft, Cultural Landscape Report and Management Plan, Longfellow National Historic Site	1984	National Park Service			
Cambridge Historical Commission	Cambridge’s Historical Districts	1989	Cambridge Historical Commission			
Carden, Marie L. and Thomas Denenberg	Longfellow National Historic Site, Cambridge, Massachusetts, Historical Overview and Evaluation of Significance, A Historic Resource Study	1996	National Park Service, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, Building Conservation			

DiMatteo, Samantha, Olivia So, James Mealey, Eliot Foulds	Cultural Landscape Report for Longfellow House – Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site, Cambridge, Massachusetts: Updated Treatment Plan and Record of Treatment	2021	National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation			
Drake, Samuel Adams	Mansions and Fields of Middlesex County	1874	C.E. Tuttle Company			
Evans, Catherine	Cultural Landscape Report for Longfellow National Historic Site, Volume 1: Site History and Existing Conditions	1993	National Park Service, North Atlantic Region, Division of Cultural Resources Management			
Griswold, William A. and Steven R. Pendry	Intensive Archaeological Testing at the Carriage House, Longfellow National Historic Site, Cambridge, Massachusetts	1998	National Park Service, Northeast Cultural Resources Center, Archaeology Branch			
Hutcheson, Martha Brookes	The Spirit of the Garden	1923	Boston: Atlantic Monthly Press			
Kline, Laura J., Gretchen M. Pineo, Nick Linville, Jillian Miller, and Kristen Heitert	National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Longfellow House-Washington's Headquarters National Historic Site	2025	Pawtucket, RI: The Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL)			
Longfellow National Historic Site Staff	Comprehensive Interpretive Plan, Longfellow National Historic Site	2004	National Park Service			

Meier, Lauren	Cultural Landscape Report for Longfellow National Historic Site, Volume 3: Treatment, Preliminary DRAFT	1997	National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation			
n/a	Middlesex County Registry of Deeds		n/a			
National Parks Conservation Association	State of the Parks, Longfellow National Historic Site: A Condition Assessment	2005	National Parks Conservation Association			
National Park Service	Footprints on the Sands of Time: Longfellow's 19th Century Cambridge: A Walking Guide	1996	Eastern National Park and Monument Association			
National Park Service	Final Master Plan, Longfellow National Historic Site	1978	National Park Service, North Atlantic Region			
Phillips, Morgan, et.al.	Historic Structures Report, Longfellow	1975	Boston: Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities			
Roe, Scott D.	Inventory of Landscape Architectural Fragments for the Longfellow National Historic Site	1999	National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation			
Scudder, Winthrop	"The Longfellow Memorial Association, 1882-1922." Cambridge: The Town of Cambridge Public Library	1922	Longfellow Memorial Association			

US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, in cooperation with Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station	Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts	2005	National Cooperative Soil Survey			
Wittpenn, Richard, Frank Barnes, and Jack Lukens	Longfellow House, A Proposed National Historic Site	1963	National Park Service			

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Alex W. Longfellow to Samuel Longfellow, Portland, January, 1844

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Longfellow National Historic Site Archives

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Andrew Craigie's waste book and account book, B. Craigie collection

Supplemental Information Narrative:

American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Massachusetts

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Bossenger Foster to Andrew Craigie, Boston, December 24, 1791

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Craigie Collection, Box 3, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Daily Evening Transcript, Boston, April 15, 1840

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Daniel Chester French to Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., April 3, 1912

Supplemental Information Narrative:

French Correspondence, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Chesterwood, Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Draft of Longfellow Restoration Program prepared by Brooks Beck

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Frances Longfellow, Cambridge to Mrs. Longfellow, Portland, Maine, September 4, 1843

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Longfellow National Historic Site Archives

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Henry Longfellow Dana to Mary King Longfellow, 1938

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Henry W. Longfellow to Ferdinand Freiligrath, November 24, 1843

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Cited by Luzader in Historic Structures Report, Longfellow House: Historical Data, 1974: 23

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Henry W. Longfellow, Journals

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Houghton Library

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Cambridge, to Stephen Longfellow, Portland, Maine, April 7, 1839

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Houghton Library

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Henry W. Longfellow and Frances Longfellow, "Craigie House."

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Journals, Cambridge, May 20, 1838, Houghton

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Library, Harvard University, Cambridge

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Henry W. Longfellow to Annie Longfellow Pierce, Cambridge, September 21, 1837

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Longfellow National Historic Site, Cambridge

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Hutcheson to Frank Chouteau, August 2, 1935

Supplemental Information Narrative:

HABS Collection at Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, Boston

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Longfellow, Alice Mary. Manuscript. "Reminiscences of My Father." Article III, Out of Doors

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Longfellow House Archives

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Michael Gaffney to Russell Berry, Superintendent, Longfellow National Historic Site, January 30, 1976

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Wikipedia: Massachusett

Supplemental Information Narrative:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Massachusett

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Historic American Buildings Survey

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Documentation of the Henry W. Longfellow Place, consisting of 26 drawings (1935) and 26 black and white photographs (1940, 1963)

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Williams, Norma E.

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Landscape Project Turn-Over Binder, Longfellow National Historic Site, Cambridge, Massachusetts (May 2002)

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type	Source
LONG_Longfellow-Wash HQ NHS Landscape_CLI Update Notes_2025.pdf			