The Agassiz Neighborhood Paths
A WALK THROUGH HISTORY, CULTURE, AND THE ARTS IN THE CAMBRIDGE AGASSIZ NEIGHBORHOOD

2013
PROGRAM OF THE AGASSIZ BALDWIN COMMUNITY
MAP, STREET & TREE WALK INSIDE
Welcome to the Agassiz Neighborhood Path. Our path is designed to delight and enlighten you as you walk. The Mayo Clinic recommends walking as a gentle, low-impact exercise that can lead to a higher level of fitness and health. A routine of walking 5 days a week for 30 minutes can help you lower cholesterol levels and blood pressure, reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes, manage weight and improve your mood.*

For your enjoyment we’ve identified 43 historic places and 28 trees. In coming years, we plan to add additional paths with information about different sites and plant life. If you know something we should add or correct, please let us know at agassiz.org or 617–349–6287.

Happy walking,
Agassiz Baldwin Community

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Organized by the 2013 Agassiz Baldwin Community
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*Read more at www.mayoclinic.com/health/walking/HQ01612
West Walk
PAGE 6
Sacramento, Oxford, Carver, Hammond, Gorham, Wendell, Mellen and Massachusetts

South Walk
PAGE 14
Harvard University Paths, Oxford and Hammond

East Walk
PAGE 22
Divinity, Kirkland, Francis and Irving

Tree Walk
PAGE 30
Oxford, Sacramento, Carver, Francis, Irving, Harvard University
BEGIN WEST WALK

1. Agassiz Baldwin Community
20 Sacramento Street
This building, the first on Sacramento St, was erected by Charles McClure in 1852 after he returned from the gold rush. Agassiz Baldwin Community (ABC) is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation providing services and programs for Cambridge residents. The agency works to reflect the diversity and talents of the community. Originally a Cambridge Community School, in 2007 the name was changed to Agassiz Baldwin Community to better reflect the center’s citywide functions and constituency, and to honor Maria Louise Baldwin, the first African-American headmistress in New England. ABC funds Maud Morgan Arts. www.agassiz.org

2. Maud Morgan Arts
20 Sacramento Street, to the rear of ABC
Named for artist and community resident Maud Morgan (1903–1999), the art center brings people together to make and share art, and supports visual arts education. Prellwitz Chilinski Associates designed the building with the collaboration of nine Cambridge artists who created site-specific public artwork that inspires creative exploration. Light-filled studios, integrated artwork, colorful accent walls, and landscaping enhance the art-making experience. Classes for artists of all ages and levels are offered in studios designed for ceramics, printmaking, painting/drawing, and sculpture. Participants can attend life drawing sessions, workshops, film screenings, or rent a studio for independent work. www.maudmorganarts.org

3. Maria L Baldwin School
Oxford and Sacramento Streets
The original school, an eight-room brick structure with granite trimming, was completed in 1875 and named for Professor Louis Agassiz, a Swiss-American naturalist who taught at Harvard University. The school has been replaced twice by larger buildings. In 2002, the School Committee changed the name to Maria L. Baldwin School, honoring the African-American Cantabrigian who served as principal and later master of the school from 1889–1922. In 1915 with Baldwin’s prompting, a new school was built. http://baldwin.cpsd.us/history/baldwin_history2

4. Oxford Street Laundry and Oxford Spa
102–104 Oxford Street
A sign in the window of the laundry declares, “This Laundromat was in the movie... Love Story.” The romantic 1970 film starred Ali McGraw and Ryan O’Neal. The laundry’s shelves are packed with low-priced recycled books—perhaps you’ll find a copy of the novel by Erich Segal there. www.imdb.com
From outside, high above the laundry’s entrance, notice the words: “Macklin’s Conservatory.” Constructed in 1929 by the Macklin family, this building housed both the conservatory and a candy store that later became a grocery and then the Oxford Spa, now a popular local cafe.
5. William Dean Howells House  
41 Sacramento Street

William Dean Howells (1837–1920), author and editor of The Atlantic Monthly, lived here from 1866 to 1870. The bracketed Italianate house was built in 1857 by developer Charles McClure after his return from the California gold rush. Howells described the neighborhood in Suburban Sketches, published in 1872, as “a frontier between city and country” where “the voices of the cows” mingled with the whistles of nearby locomotives. By the time he and his wife, Elinor, left for Berkeley Street, most of the cows had moved on and the vacant lots were filled with houses. The construction of a two-family house across the street and the arrival of an Irish family apparently dismayed Howells and led to his departure. The house has been designated a historic landmark by the city and is being renovated.  
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Dean_Howells

6. Carver Street

Carver Street was laid out in 1851 to create housing near the horse-car line to Boston that ran on Beacon Street just across the Somerville city line. Three “worker houses” from this early period remain: #46, a mansard, 1870; #36–38, a double house, 1858; 91 Wendell St., a delightful small 1½-story house with a gambrel roof, 1870. Contrast the styles of these three older houses with the newer Queen Anne style of #16 (1889) and Stick style of #30 (1885). Almost all of the houses west of Carver St. were built in these newer Victorian styles. Then-vacant land to the west, subdivided later by the Palfrey estate, did not see significant building activity until the late 1880s and early 1890s.

7. 83 Hammond St. & 6 Howland St.

At the northeast corner of Hammond and Howland, note the two different ways 1888 Victorian house trim may be treated today: 83 Hammond St. has historical Victorian colors, while 6 Howland St. behind it (originally on the same lot) displays the very same woodwork in brighter, modern hues. The garden at #83 has many unusual trees: a rare miniature false cypress at the front sidewalk; a tall Swiss stone pine in the front yard; Maackia, sweetgum, goldenrain and giant arborvitae trees in the side yard; and a mottled Stewartia in the driveway.

8. Maud Morgan House  
71 Hammond St. & 3 Howland St.

The large Queen Anne house at 71 Hammond St. was built in 1893 for a doctor. The stable for his horse was behind, at 3 Howland. Well-known artist Maud Morgan lived and worked in the converted stable from the 1960s until 1999, when she died at age 96. Howland Street was named for John Howland, a passenger on the Mayflower who fell overboard but was rescued and lived to age 80. He was an indentured servant to John Carver (for whom Carver St. is named), who became the first governor of the Plymouth Colony but died of exhaustion in 1621.  
maudmorgan.com/artwork/maudmorganbio.htm
12. Mellen Street

Mellen Street, though just one short block, is an outstanding outdoor museum of Victorian house types, mostly from the 1870s and 1880s, including Greek Revival (#13), Bracketed Italianate (#12, 27 and 29), French Mansard (#8, 18, 24, and 37), Queen Anne (#33), and Stick (#7 and 9) styles. Many of the houses are now owned by Lesley University. The four attached Mansard townhouses at #15–17–19–21 are the oldest original structure on the street, built in 1858. The Mansard roof was added after 1875. Despite appearances, #13 is actually much older. It was built 1836 at 1648 Mass. Ave. and then moved here in 1868. The porch was added during a renovation project in the 1990s.

13. Houses moved to Mellen Street and North Hall

The house and carriage house at 5 Mellen St. and the adjacent house at 1637 Mass. Ave. were moved from Mass. Ave. to make way for Harvard Law School’s new building at the corner of Everett St. These attractive large Mansards have been well restored by Harvard. The number 32 on the fence in front of 5 Mellen refers to its original street number on ‘North Avenue’, the name this once-grand avenue had from 1838 to 1895. Before then, from 1636–1838, the street was called Menotomy Road. Menotomy, originally the name of a Cambridge neighborhood, is now the separate town of Arlington. North Hall, a Harvard Law School dorm, was formerly a Holiday Inn. Built in the 1960s, it once had an outdoor swimming pool that was enjoyed by Agassiz area residents. Today Agassiz Baldwin Community has use of a room in the basement of North Hall for programming and community events.

http://www.davisbuildingmovers.com/id79.html

14. 3 Sacramento St. (HEMP)

The Dudley Co-operative Society, an affiliate of Dudley House, was founded in 1958 as alternative housing for undergraduates at Harvard. The 32 undergraduates and two resident tutors do their own cleaning, cooking, and food buying, and pay a reduced room and board fee. The Co-op is an option for students who are not satisfied with the institutional nature of house life, but who do not want the isolation or the expense of living in an apartment.
15. Sacramento Field and Bleachery Reservoir
Sacramento Street
Sacramento Field was once the site of a reservoir that supplied water for a facility operated by the Middlesex Bleach, Dye, and Print Works at 550 Somerville Avenue. The company was founded in 1801, and the reservoir dates to sometime after 1854. A steam-driven pump sent 100,000 gallons of water per day from the spring-fed reservoir through a pipe to the company's plant. A 1922 newspaper article described the reservoir as stocked with fish and surrounded by grape arbors, fruit trees, and flowers, making it "one of the beauty spots of Cambridge." The company closed in 1936, and the land was taken by the city for recreational use in 1980 after a failed attempt by Harvard to build faculty housing on the site.

16. Mansard Houses
9–19 Sacramento Street
The two brick 1879 Mansard-roofed buildings originally comprised six townhouses. The Cambridge Architectural Inventory notes the unusual arrangement whereby the symmetry of the bays has been broken by asymmetrical doors: two on one side, one on the other. Also unique are the effects of the bay projections carrying into the Mansard roof, the indented cross brickwork pattern that divides the façade horizontally, and the window treatment of reddish stone lintels paired with black stone sills.

17. Sacramento Street Community Garden
21 Sacramento Street
Occupying the site of the M.A. Crosby house, built about 1850 and known for its attractive garden filled with berries and fruit trees, the Community Garden was begun in 1975. It contains approximately sixty plots. Member gardeners, who share maintenance tasks, tools, compost, and information, grow a wide variety of flowers, vegetables, and berries. Cambridge residents interested in obtaining a plot in one of the 14 community gardens should contact the Cambridge Conservation Commission.

Our walking path begins to the west of the Littauer Center on the far northwest side of the Cambridge St. overpass between Harvard Yard and Harvard’s northern campus.

1. Bunker Hill marker, Littauer Center
Note the small gravestone-like monument to the west of Littauer Center (a large granite building, built in 1938, now Harvard’s Economics Dept.). This monument celebrates the place where 1,200 Patriots gathered on June 16, 1775, alarmed that the British Regulars were about to fortify Dorchester Heights in order to protect their naval fleet.

After an address by Harvard President Langdon, the men marched toward Bunker Hill, led by Major General Israel Putnam. Under cover of nightfall, they fortified nearby Breed’s Hill with earthworks. The next morning, as the red-coated Regulars advanced across a field toward ammunition-limited Patriot forces, either Putnam or Colonel William Prescott yelled the famous command, “Don’t fire until you see the whites of their eyes.” More than 1,000 Regulars were killed, in the first major battle of the Revolutionary War.

A similar granite monument closer to the Littauer Center notes the location of the headquarters of the Committee of Safety, formed in 1774 to keep watch on the distrusted royal government. By 1775, after royal officials were expelled, this became a de facto, provisional government. Led by John Hancock, local Committees of Safety had powers to call up mandatory militia. This is also the birthplace of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr., doctor and poet. He was born in 1809, in the very house where the march to Bunker Hill had been planned.


2. Gannett House
The Greek Revival house to the north is Gannett House, built in 1838. Today, it’s the home of the Harvard Law Review, founded in 1887. (Barack Obama, aged 28, was elected its president in 1980.) The building originally faced Harvard Square but was turned 90 degrees in 1938 to face a proposed mall that would have extended to Oxford Street but was never built.

http://www.examiner.com/article/harvard-s-gannett-house

3. Austin Hall
The Romanesque Revival building with the large arch is Austin Hall, the first law-school building in America, designed by Henry Hobson Richardson in 1882. Note Richardson’s decorative, playful use of multi-colored sandstones. Inside are the country’s oldest law-school classrooms and Ames Courtroom, home of moot-court trials.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austin_Hall_%28Harvard_University%29

4. Langdell Hall, Hauser Hall
The huge limestone Beaux Arts granite building in the Law School quadrangle is Langdell Hall, built in 1906 for the law library and classrooms. To the north, Hauser Hall, built in 1994 for faculty offices, won architectural awards for modernizing Richardson’s Austin Hall archway theme. Look for the fossils contained in the limestone around the base of the building.

5. Harvard Graduate Center (Law School)
Harvard Graduate Center, behind Hauser Hall, was designed by Walter Gropius’s Cambridge firm, The Architects Collaborative, in 1950. This early-modern complex consists of seven dormitories and a large student commons built of concrete blocks with brick facing. The complex suggests industrial-revolution themes: solids and voids, formed from building-blocks and courtyards.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Graduate_Center

6. Maxwell Dworkin Building
33 Oxford Street
A dramatic example of the uses of illusion in architecture, Harvard’s Maxwell Dworkin is a 100,000 sq. ft. building with a one-inch-wide front wall. The architects, Payette Associates, describe the design on its “constrained pie-shaped site” as “a brick exterior wall [that] wraps the building to the north and complements the traditional structures on the adjacent quad. Facing the street, a lighter... façade of glass curtainwall and aluminum sunscreens celebrates the role of technology and discovery... ” Dedicated in 2000 and given the surnames of the mothers of its two benefactors, Microsoft’s Bill Gates and Steven Ballmer, the building supposedly stands on the spot where Bill Gates wrote the code for the software that became Microsoft’s first product.

7. Engineering Sciences Lab
58–60 Oxford Street
The ESL is one of a pair of designs commissioned by Harvard in 1964–65 from architect Minoru Yamasaki (the other building is William James Hall at 33 Kirkland Street, described by Robert Bell Rettig as “rising fourteen stories in aloof disregard of its surroundings”). The austere white surface of ESL’s Oxford Street elevation, punctuated with ground-to-roof window channels, reflects Yamasaki’s late-60s fascination with verticality, which reached its apotheosis in his 1970 design for the Twin Towers of the New York World Trade Center.
The structure is incrementally massed from the low Hammond Street end to the full four-story height of the main structure at the south end of the building. The resulting visual lightness has been used to advantage by subsequent designers who were able to cram multiple big-box structures behind it, using its ethereal facade as a foil.
http://www.seas.harvard.edu
8. Palfrey House
18 Hammond Street

After living in Divinity Hall with his students for several months, Rev. John Gorham Palfrey (1796–1881), the first dean of the Harvard Divinity School, built a family home near this site in 1831. Palfrey, a Unitarian clergyman and historian, later served as a state representative and congressman from Massachusetts. The house was the Palfrey family’s residence until 1916, when it was bought by Harvard, and is now part of the Department of Physics. Palfrey’s wife was Mary Ann Hammond, so it is fitting that the house was moved to its present location in 2003. Much of the Agassiz neighborhood was created from Palfrey’s 12-acre estate, although only one house (17 Hammond, 1872) was sold before his death. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_G._Palfrey

9. Harvard Cyclotron Laboratory and Cambridge Electron Accelerator
38 Oxford Street, northeast of the NW building

HCL was built with Office of Naval Research funds to replace an earlier cyclotron that was sent to Los Alamos for use in the Manhattan Project. From 1949 to 2002, the HCL was notable for its contributions to the development of proton therapy: using a beam of protons to irradiate diseased tissue with minimal damage to healthy tissue and surrounding organs. The use of proton particle accelerators for external beam radiotherapy was developed here in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital. HCL provided proton therapy to over 9,000 patients and treatment for ocular diseases to nearly 3,000 patients. The building was demolished when the Northwest Building parking garage was built. http://users.physics.harvard.edu/~wilson/cyclotron/history.html

The Cambridge Electron Accelerator was a joint project of Harvard and MIT. When it opened in 1960 it was the highest-energy electron accelerator in the world, generating 6 billion electron volts. An explosion in the lab one July night in 1965 rocked the Agassiz neighborhood and killed a graduate student. The lab was closed in 1974.
http://washuu.net/cea-bang.htm

10. Whales, Northwest Laboratory Building
52 Oxford Street

Skeletons of the killer whale and the northern bottlenose whale diving and breaching enliven the lobby and lower level of this building. Both skeletons were restored to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology’s founding in 1859. These highly social animals live in all the world’s oceans. In western culture killer whales have a reputation as fearsome predators. The northern bottlenose whale is found in the deep waters of the North Atlantic Ocean. This specimen was collected in the 1930s near the Faroe Islands.
http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2010/02/new-life-for-old-whale-exhibit/
11. Museum of Natural History

26 Oxford St.

The Museum of Comparative Zoology, part of the Museum of Natural History, is a center for research and education concerning the comparative relationships of animal life. It was founded in 1859 primarily through the efforts of Louis Agassiz. Though he favored special creation over Darwin’s theory of evolution, the facilities within Louis Agassiz’s (and his son Alexander’s) complex are today perhaps the world’s leading center for the study of evolution. Museum exhibits include dinosaur skeletons, rare minerals, meteorites, and hundreds of animals. Of special interest are the 3,000 life-size, botanically correct, Glass Flowers created by the Blaschka family. See www.hmnh.harvard.edu for new exhibitions and free lectures.

12. Science Center, Historic Scientific Instruments

The Harvard Science Center was built in 1973 after a design by Josep Lluís Sert, then dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. This large complex was financed in part by a then-anonymous gift from Edwin Land, inventor of the Polaroid “Land” camera. Step inside the Oxford Street door to this building to explore its little-known but fascinating museum: the Harvard Collection of Historic Scientific Instruments, run by Harvard’s History of Science department.

http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~hsdept/chi.html

END SOUTH WALK
**BEGIN EAST WALK**

1. **Peabody Museum**  
   *11 Divinity Avenue*  
   Founded in 1866 by George Peabody, who has been called the founder of modern philanthropy, the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology is one of the oldest museums in the world devoted to anthropology. It houses one of the most comprehensive records of human cultural history in the Western Hemisphere, including six million objects and 500,000 photographs.  
   [www.peabody.harvard.edu](http://www.peabody.harvard.edu)

2. **Rhinoceros Sculptures at Biological Laboratories**  
   *16 Divinity Avenue*  
   The rhinos guarding the entrance to the Harvard Biological Laboratories building were sculpted by Katharine Lane (later Katharine Lane Weems, 1899–1989). Lane also created the animal friezes on the building façade and the three doors with bronze depictions of organisms of the sea, air, and land. The rhinos, weighing three tons each, were unveiled on May 12, 1937, the day George VI was crowned, leading Lane to call the event a “rhino coronation.” Bessie (right) and Victoria (left) were both modeled after a female Indian rhino (Rhinoceros unicornis) at the New York Zoological Gardens. Copies of the Harvard sculptures were installed there in 1989.  

3. **Semitic Museum**  
   *6 Divinity Avenue*  
   The Semitic Museum, founded in 1889, houses over 40,000 Near Eastern artifacts, most deriving from museum-sponsored excavations in Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and Tunisia. The Museum, which shares its building with Harvard’s Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations and Center for Jewish Studies, is dedicated to the use of these collections for the investigation and teaching of Near Eastern archaeology, history, and culture. The museum welcomes visitors and offers guided docent tours and exhibits that are open to the general public.  
   [www.semiticmuseum.fas.harvard.edu](http://www.semiticmuseum.fas.harvard.edu)

4. **Busch Hall**  
   *Divinity Avenue & Kirkland Street*  
   Built to house the Germanic Museum, Busch Hall was finished in 1917 but not opened until 1921 due to World War I, although the official explanation was “a lack of coal.” Named for brewer-benefactor Adolphus Busch, the building housed German art, a collection of plaster casts of sculpture donated by Kaiser Wilhelm II, and the Flentrop organ made famous by the E. Power Briggs radio concerts. The organ and casts are still on view, but the museum, renamed the Busch-Reisinger, moved to a part of the Fogg Museum in 1991. Busch Hall is now the home of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies. The enclosed garden is open to the public. The public is also welcome to attend free organ concerts at 12:15 on Thursdays.  
5. Treadwell-Sparks House
21 Kirkland Street
Built for inventor and professor Daniel Treadwell in 1738, this Greek Revival house was the residence of Jared Sparks, Harvard president from 1849–53. It then became a training center for Swedenborgian ministers. The house was moved from 48 Quincy Street in 1968 for the construction of Gund Hall (the Graduate School of Design). The minister of Memorial Church, Peter Gomes, had the house painted bright yellow when he moved in during the 1970s, but the original color has been restored following analysis of paint samples.
http://www.harvard.edu/history/presidents/sparks

6. Francis House (Lippmann House)
1 Francis Avenue
Ebenezer Francis, the first superintendent of buildings and grounds at Harvard, built this house in 1836 and then subdivided his property to create Francis Avenue, also known as Professors’ Row. The house was originally two buildings that faced Kirkland Street. The houses were combined and reoriented after 1927. The building has housed a kindergarten, a secretarial school, and a parsonage. Since 1977 it has been the home of the Nieman Foundation, which provides fellowships for journalists. The house was named for influential journalist Walter Lippmann, a Harvard graduate and benefactor.
http://nieman.harvard.edu/NiemanFoundation/AboutTheFoundation/History/WalterLippmannHouse.aspx

7. William James House
95 Irving Street
William James (1842–1910) impacted both psychology and philosophy. By closely observing, documenting, and reflecting on human experiences, he challenged academic theories about thoughts, actions, and choices. James studied both science and medicine at Harvard. From 1871 onward, he taught at Harvard, moving from the department of physiology to psychology and then philosophy.
plato.stanford.edu/entries/james/

8. E.E. Cummings House
104 Irving Street
Edward Estlin Cummings (1894–1962) was an influential poet whose experiments with form, punctuation, spelling, and syntax led him to create idiosyncratic poetry. He attended Agassiz Grammar School, Cambridge Latin, and Harvard College. His first book, The Enormous Room (1922) was a memoir about life in a French prison camp during World War I. Tulips and Chimneys (1923), a book of poetry, revealed the playful language and celebrations of freedom that became his trademark. Cummings was also a visual artist who drew and painted from nature and from his active imagination.
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E._E._Cummings
9. Josiah Royce/Julia Child House
103 Irving Street
Josiah Royce (1855–1916), prolific writer on ethics, Christian faith, and philosophy of community, came to Harvard from California to fill in for philosopher William James during a sabbatical and stayed on. Close colleagues, Royce and James were often at odds but influenced each other on key issues, particularly sources of truth, knowledge, and religious experience. en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josiah_Royce
Julia Child (1912–2004) and her husband, Paul, moved here in 1961 after years of living in Europe. Julia had studied at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris and wrote Mastering the Art of French Cooking, published in 1961, with Simone Beck and Louisette Bertholle. The popularity of the book and the public television series The French Chef made her a cultural icon. Her television shows in the 1990s, starting with Julia’s Kitchen with Master Chefs, were filmed in her kitchen. When she moved to California in 2001, the house was donated to her alma mater, Smith College, which sold it and used the proceeds to build a Campus Center. Julia’s kitchen was moved in its entirety to the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, where it is now on display.
www.biography.com/article/Julia-Child

10. American Academy of Arts & Sciences
Carver & Irving Streets
Founded in 1780 by a group that included John Adams and John Hancock, the Academy’s 4,000 elected members conduct independent scholarly research on the challenges facing American society. After meeting in a variety of locations in the Boston area for its first 200 years, the Academy is now located in Norton’s Woods, part of the former Charles Eliot Norton estate, Shady Hill. The building, completed in 1981, was designed by Kallmann McKinnell & Wood. The style shows influences ranging from Tuscan villas to the Arts & Crafts movement.
A part of the estate was developed as house lots for Harvard faculty by Charles Eliot Norton (the first professor of art history) in 1888. After Norton’s death, the house, built in 1806, served as the residence of the directors of the Fogg Museum. Following the demolition of the house in 1960, Harvard proposed up to 300 housing units for the remaining area of the estate, but abandoned the idea after opposition from the neighborhood. The paths through the woods are open to the public.
www.amacad.org

11. Center for the Study of World Religions
42 Francis Avenue
Constructed in 1960, the building was designed by Catalanian architect Josep Lluís Sert, then dean of Harvard’s Graduate School of Design. The original building was primarily residential, with nineteen apartments for fellows and the director, as well as an administrative wing. An open-air courtyard, enclosed by the building on three sides, became a favorite “green place” on the campus. The building offers doctoral students and visiting scholars, many from outside of the U.S., the chance to enrich their studies of world religious traditions by daily interaction with one another.
www.hds.harvard.edu/cswr/
12. J. K. Galbraith House
30 Francis Avenue
Built in 1905 on “Professor’s Row” this colonial was home to Harvard economist John Kenneth Galbraith (1908–2006). A Keynesian, proponent of political liberalism, and a prolific author, he was arguably the best-known economist in the country. He served in the administrations of presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson and was twice awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. A 1955 FBI security check said of him: “Investigation favorable except conceited, egotistical, and snobbish.” President Kennedy once asked Dr. Galbraith his opinion of a New York Times profile. Galbraith said he had liked it well enough, but wondered why it had called him arrogant. “I don’t see why not,” the President said, “everybody else does.” http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Kenneth_Galbraith

13. Andover Hall
45 Francis Avenue
Andover Hall, an affiliated project of the Andover Theological Seminary and Harvard Divinity School, was completed in 1911. The building is Harvard’s only example of the style known as “Collegiate Gothic.” The architects, Allen & Collens, also designed Riverside Church (1930) and The Cloisters (1938) in New York City. http://www.hds.harvard.edu/news-events/articles/2012/05/09/saluting-andover-hall-at-100-years

14. Labyrinth
Museum Street behind Andover Hall
The pattern is modeled after one made in the 13th century in Chartres Cathedral in France. Unlike a maze, a labyrinth is unicursal—a single path to the center and out again—preventing the possibility that the walker will ever be lost. Walking for a sacred purpose is a universal human activity found in many religious traditions. From pilgrimages to Mecca and Jerusalem to meandering hikes through the forests, spiritual seekers know the allure and power of walking a sacred path. The labyrinth is a spiritual tool inviting the traveler to turn walking and wandering into pilgrimage. www.hds.harvard.edu/news/article_archive/labyrinth.html

END EAST WALK
Neighborhood Tree Reference Guide

TREES AND SHRUBS BY STREET

We wish to thank local naturalist Jean Rogers who walked this path with us in rain and sun, cold and heat, identifying trees. We also wish to thank Lesley University Professor David Motomiya for his contributions to the second iteration of the tree walk. The specimens listed below were selected to give walkers a sense of the variety to be found in the Agassiz neighborhood. If you know of any other trees of interest in the area, please contact us by phone at 617–349–6287 or online at www.agassiz.org.

REGION A

100 Oxford & corner of Crescent

European Weeping Birch (Betula pendula) or silver birch is a widespread birch often multi-trunked. It is noted for its white bark, which exfoliates in papery strips, and its drooping or pendulous branches.

100 Oxford

Sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua) is easily recognized by its star-shaped leaves and dangling fruit, popularly called a “gumball,” which contains numerous seeds covered by many prickly, woody armatures. Leaves are brilliant red in the fall and the “gumballs” add visual interest after the leaves have fallen.

Ginkgo (Ginkgo biloba) or maidenhair tree is a unique species with no close living relatives. From an early period in human history, the tree has been used for food and medicine. Look for angular branches and yellow leaves that come off the tree within a couple of days in autumn.

REGION B

86 Oxford & corner of Sacramento (Next to the mail box)

Pagoda Tree or Chinese scholar tree (Styphnolobium japonicum) is native to eastern Asia. The ornamental tree has white flowers in late summer. The distinctive fruits in long yellowish pods look like a short string of pearls. Fruit remaining on the tree in early spring attracts flocks of returning cedar waxwings.

39 Sacramento

Little Leaf Linden (Tilia cordata) also called small-leaved lime is native to Europe and western Asia. The flowers are highly fragrant and attractive to bees. Mature trees are often shaped like inverted hearts. Bare winter branches often seem black.

REGION C

Between 48 & 50 Sacramento

Scotch Pine (Pinus sylvestris), native to Europe and Asia, ranges as far north as the Arctic Circle. Its needles are twinned, twisted, and blunt-tipped. It is a pleasant tree to view in winter with its blue/green thick needles and orange/brown bark reminiscent of ripe pineapples.

53 Sacramento

Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus) is the tallest tree on the Eastern seaboard, and the only 5-needle pine native to the Northeast. To the Haudenosaunee Native Americans (Iroquois) this was known as the Tree of Peace.

54 Sacramento

Sycamore (Platanus occidental), known as plane trees in Europe, are valuable for their timber and shade. Long-lived sycamores can reach 600 years. They have pale, mottled, exfoliating bark, ball-like fruit, and a broad, dense crown. The tree bark is in a constant state of “becoming” with no fewer than 3 layers visible at a time. Seeds are dispersed into the air in the winter months, melt through snow and are carried on melt-water to the rich soils of a riverbank.

REGION D

61 Sacramento

Crimson King Norway Maple (Acer platanoides) has leaves that are purplish-green in summer and turn brown, dark maroon or bronze in the fall. It should be grown where surface roots are not a problem. The dense shade and shallow root system compete with lawn grasses and can make mowing under the tree difficult.
REGION F

46 Carver (corner)

White Ash (Fraxinus) has colorful autumn foliage and winged seeds that drop in the fall. Its wood is strong and resistant to shock, so it is sought for handles, oars, and baseball bats. Former Midwesterners will be pleased to enjoy these trees that have been destroyed by emerald ash borer insects in their home states.

28 Carver

Norway Spruce (Picea abies) is the most widely cultivated species of spruce in North America and the largest in the East. It has drooping twigs, long cones, and branches that grow densely forming an effective windbreak. Stop and listen for birds taking shelter in these trees year-round. Look for decorative papery cones to bring inside and enjoy during the cold months.

20 Carver

Red Maple (Acer rubrum) is also known as swamp maple because it thrives in wet ground or soft maple because it is not as hard as sugar maple. Its brilliant red and orange leaves signal the advent of autumn. The bark of young trees is smooth and gray. Squirrels nip at branches in late February, then come back later and lick sap icicles. Look closely to see if it’s true that some part of this tree is red year-round.

111 Hammond

(intersection with Carver, in yard)

Silver Maple (Acer saccharinum), also called white maple, is native to eastern North America and Canada. Its divided leaves turn yellow in autumn, and its winged seeds provide many birds and small animals with food. Red buds swell in February, and flowers arrive early.

REGION F (continued)

65 Francis

American Elm (Ulmus Americana) is the Massachusetts state tree and a favorite nesting place for Baltimore orioles at Fresh Pond. Vase-shaped elms were once widespread in the US, but since 1950 millions have died due to a parasitic fungus, Dutch elm disease. Papery seeds germinate readily upon landing—a great growing opportunity for a parent and child with a pot.

68 Francis (corner Francis & Irving)

Yew (Taxus), once associated with churchyards, bears red fleshy cones that look like berries. The leaf underside is yellowish-green. Yew grows wild at Fresh Pond and other areas where birds eat the seed and leave their waste while they get their next meal. Look across the street from this tree to see a yew cultivar grown as a hedge.

133 Irving

River Birch (Betula nigra) is readily identifiable by its peeling bark. The wood is sometimes used in children’s toys. Prince Maximilian, the short-lived Emperor of Mexico, called this the most beautiful of American trees.
Copper Beech (Fagus sylvatica cuprea) with its smooth gray bark is visually interesting even through the winter months. The distinctive foliage ranging from copper to rich purple is caused by high levels of anthocyanin in the leaves which mask the green color of chlorophyll. Seeds, called beechnuts, are triangular and are an important food source for birds. It is said that Abraham Lincoln liked to read under the shade of a copper beech at his home in Illinois.

Divinity School

Honey Locust (Gleditsia triacanthos) is a fast-growing, relatively short-lived (120 years) tree prone to losing large branches in windstorms. Despite its name, the tree is not a source of honey. The sweet pulp of the legume was once used as food by Native Americans and can be fermented to make beer.

White Mulberry (Morus alba) is native to northern China. It was introduced into America for silkworm culture in early colonial times and naturalized and hybridized with the native red mulberry. Look for beautiful gold bark on its upper branches. Unfamiliar city folk are uneasy about the messy walking dropped fruit creates.

White Fir (Abies concolor) is native to the mountains of western North America. Its symmetrical form and low-sweeping branches make it popular both as an ornamental and as a Christmas tree. Take a moment to feel its flat and friendly (not prickly) needles.

Plum (Prunus) is a stone fruit tree found in America, China, and Europe. Fruit trees have been cultivated in Massachusetts since 1629. Look for pink flowers and purple leaves.
West Walk
PAGE 6
Sacramento, Oxford, Carver, Hammond, Gorham, Wendell, Mellen and Massachusetts

South Walk
PAGE 14
Harvard University Paths, Oxford and Hammond

East Walk
PAGE 22
Divinity, Kirkland, Francis and Irving

Tree Walk
PAGE 30
Oxford, Sacramento, Carver, Francis, Irving, and Harvard University