

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	BOS.4158
<b>Historic Name:</b>	West End House
<b>Common Name:</b>	Massachusetts General Hospital Planning Office
<b>Address:</b>	16-18 Blossom St Cambridge St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Boston
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	West End; Cambridge Street
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	1929
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Business Office; Community Center; Meeting Hall; Other Recreational
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Community Planning; Ethnic Heritage; Religion
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	
<b>Building Materials(s):</b>	Wall: Brick; Cast Concrete; Metal, Undetermined



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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*WEST END 7AL*



ADDRESS 16-18 Blossom St. COR. Cambridge St. *4158*

NAME Planning Office West End House  
present original *UGS BOSTON*

AP No. 26N-12E SUB AREA Cambridge St.

DATE 1929 1929 Boston City Directory  
source *CEA D*

ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_  
source

BUILDER \_\_\_\_\_  
source

OWNER \_\_\_\_\_ Massachusetts General Hospital  
original present

PHOTOGRAPHS 3 1/2 \*87

TYPE (residential) single double row 2-fam. 3-deck ten apt.  
(non-residential) offices

NO. OF STORIES (1st to cornice) 3 plus \_\_\_\_\_

ROOF flat \_\_\_\_\_ cupola \_\_\_\_\_ dormers \_\_\_\_\_

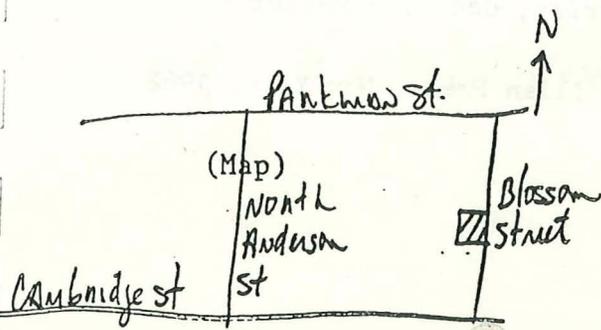
MATERIALS (Frame) clapboards shingles stucco asphalt asbestos alum/vinyl  
(Other) brick stone concrete iron/steel/alum.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION Three-story, brick, Colonial Revival structure, symmetrically  
arranged with five centered bays on a very shallow projecting pavillion with blank  
outside bays. Belt coursing between first and second floors. Simple metal cornice  
below balustraded parapet. Centered doorway is classical in design, of cast concrete  
with fluted pilasters and a pediment of tryglyphs and projecting moldings. The door  
itself is recessed with an arched fanlight. Windows are metal sash. (continued)

EXTERIOR ALTERATION minor moderate drastic \_\_\_\_\_

CONDITION good fair poor \_\_\_\_\_ LOT AREA 7667 sq. feet

NOTEWORTHY SITE CHARACTERISTICS \_\_\_\_\_



SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd on reverse)

This building is most noteworthy as the former West End House, founded in 1907, as a settlement house founded by a Boston native. It was soon taken over as a settlement house by the increasing number of Jews in the neighborhood and continued to serve Jewish Youth through the 1950s. In the 1960s there were few Jewish youths left in the neighborhood and the (continued)

Moved; date if known \_\_\_\_\_

Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/	_____	Science/	_____
The Arts	_____	settlement	_____	invention	_____
Commerce	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Communication	_____	Military	_____	humanitarian	_____
Community/	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____
development	_____				

Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

organization served the local Italian children. It was used primarily for athletics, games, and arts and crafts. In 1965 it was bought by MGH and converted to the Planning Office. The West End House still exists in Brighton where it moved after leaving the West End.

The building's past is honored with a plaque on the building, near the entrance.

Preservation Consideration (accessibility, re-use possibilities, capacity for public use and enjoyment, protection, utilities, context)

Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Gans, Herbert J. The Urban Villagers, The Macmillian Press, New York, 1962.  
 1929 Boston City Directory

ADDRESS 16-18 Blossom St.NAME MGH Planning Office

## DESCRIPTION CONTINUED:

First and second floor windows have three horizontal panes; third floor windows which appear to be in a ballroom or large meeting hall are twice the length of those on lower floors, have brick arches with six horizontal panes below the arch. All windows have brick lintels.