

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Massachusetts

COUNTY:
Middlesex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER	DATE



1. NAME

COMMON:
William Brattle House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

Congressional District 8

STREET AND NUMBER:
42 Brattle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge

STATE: Massachusetts CODE: 25 COUNTY: Middlesex CODE: 017

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☒ Educational ☒ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Other (Specify) <u>Recreation</u>	☒ Comments used as adult educ. center
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
42 Brattle Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
25

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:
Cambridge and Third Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Cambridge

STATE:
Massachusetts

CODE:
25

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Building Survey (40504-9)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1938 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D.C.

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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ENTRY NUMBER
DATESTATE:
Mass.
COUNTY:
Middlesex

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

✓ The William Brattle House has a five-bay, two-story facade with a gambrel roof, typical of early Georgian design in Cambridge. The bracketed cornice and the location of the second story windows close under the eaves are common features of the period. Clapboards are probably original although corner boards may have been added later and dormers are in the original location, if not the original condition. While these features give the house a convincing early Georgian appearance, several changes have occurred to alter details of the facade. Original window sash and frames were replaced, probably in the early 19th century, by 6/6 sash and lighter frames, and the present blinds were added then as well. The enclosed entrance vestibule is an 1891 addition, replacing a bracketed hood of c. 1860.

The Brattle house has a two-room, center-hall plan with a three-run staircase whose main axis parallels the hall, a plan found in other moderate-size houses of the period. The carved spiral newel and the elaborate balusters are original but the staircase itself had to be rebuilt after a fire in 1955. Much of the trim of the main rooms has been removed but original paneling can be found in the right parlor where the southwest wall is decorated with pilasters on pedestals and ornate bolection moldings over the mantel and doors. ✓

The Brattle estate comprised about 22 acres by 1801, which today would include an area from Brattle Square to Ash Street. The grounds were always admired for their gardens, particularly in the late 18th century when they were landscaped with fruit trees and flowers, a mall, a pond, and a grotto as well. The estate was divided in 1801 and successively subdivided throughout the 19th century until the lot was reduced to its present size in 1889. The Brattle Hall (Longfellow, Alden & Harlow) was built at that time on the east end of the lot; additions have been constructed at the rear of the house since that time to accommodate expanded activities.

In spite of the reduction in size of the property and its location in the midst of dense development, the present lot with landscaped front yard, brick terrace, and handsome wood and granite fence (1847-8) is reminiscent of the original Brattle estate, and the Brattle house itself appears much as it did in the 18th century.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAY 8	DATE 1972

(Number all entries)

Cambridge William Brattle House, 42 Brattle Street

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: Inventory of the Historical Assets of Massachusetts
Date: 1967 Level: State
Depository: Massachusetts Historical Commission
Address: Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston, Mass.
Code: 20

Title: Historic Sites Study
Date: 1967 Level: State
Depository: Eastern Massachusetts Regional Planning Project,
Massachusetts Department of Public Works
Address: 100 Nashua Street, Boston, Mass.
Code: 20

Title: Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge
Date: 1964- Level: Local
Depository: Cambridge Historical Commission
Address: 57 Inman Street, Cambridge, Mass.
Code: 20



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1727

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☒ Education | ☒ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☒ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | | <u>Historic</u> |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | <u>Preservation</u> |
| ☒ Architecture | ☒ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☒ Social/Humanitarian | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Communications | ☒ Military | ☐ Transportation | |
| ☐ Conservation | ☐ Music | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Brattle House is a significant example of early Georgian architecture in Cambridge, preserving good interior trim and retaining its one-room deep, gambrel-roofed mass, in spite of later additions to the rear, and in the midst of increasing density of surrounding development.

The house was built about 1727 for William Brattle, a prominent Cambridge lawyer and politician, who became major-general of the Massachusetts Bay militia in 1771. Like many of his neighbors further up the street which bears his name, Brattle had to flee Boston in 1774 because of his Tory sympathies. During the Revolution, the house accommodated Thomas Mifflin, aide-de-camp to Washington and commissary general. In 1784 William Brattle's son Thomas took back the estate, restored the house, and improved the grounds with extensive landscaping. The estate was broken up after Thomas' death in 1801, and it continued to be subdivided throughout the 19th century.

The history of the Brattle House changed significantly when it was sold in 1889 to the Cambridge Social Union, a group founded in 1871 to provide intellectual and social activity for young adults in the area. Seeking more space and permanent quarters, the Union purchased the Brattle House and the lot to the south-east of the house, made extensive renovations carefully retaining much interior trim, then built Brattle Hall (Longfellow, Alden & Harlow, architects) at 40 Brattle Street for lectures, concerts, and dramatic presentations.

The role of the house changed again in 1938 when the Union could no longer be supported as a social agency and the Cambridge Center for Adult Education was formed to take its place. The Center sold Brattle Hall in 1948 and expanded the Brattle House itself to the rear to accommodate increased educational activities. Today the Center continues to operate successfully, fully utilizing the space in the original Brattle House and its additions throughout the year.

The maintenance of the Georgian character of the house and its successful adaptation to changing uses marks a significant example of historic preservation in Cambridge.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

D.A.R., Hannah Winthrop Chapter. An Historic Guide to Cambridge. Cambridge, 1907, 84-89.

Lille, Rupert Ballou. "Gardens and Homes of the Loyalists." Cambridge Historical Society, Proceedings, 26 (1940), 56.

Paige, Lucius R. History of Cambridge, Mass., 1630-1877, with a Genealogical Register. Boston, 1877, 168n., 169, 170, 421, 500.

Rettig, Robert Bell. Guide to Camb. Architecture. Camb., 1969, C1.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.2

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Amy E. Cohn, Secretary (Anne Wardwell, Survey Director, MHC)	
ORGANIZATION Cambridge Historical Commission	DATE June 21, 1972
STREET AND NUMBER: 57 Inman Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge	STATE Massachusetts
	CODE 022

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name John F. X. Danne
Secretary of the Commonwealth,
Chairman,

Title Massachusetts Historical Commission

Date 7/22/72

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/8/73

ATTEST:

W. S. Mumley
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 30 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for clarification of the information indicated below.

1. Name. _____
2. Location. _____
3. Classification. _____
4. Owner of Property. _____
5. Location of Legal Description. _____
6. Representation in Existing Surveys. _____
7. Description. _____
8. Statement of Significance. _____
9. Bibliography. _____
10. Geographical Data.
 - a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates. _____
 - b. Acreage. _____
11. Form Prepared By. _____
12. Certification. _____
- Photographic Coverage. _____
- ☒ Map Coverage. Need original U.S.G.S. with border
enabling us to check lat. & long.
map redone 4/2/73 - pfw
- Other. _____

Clarification or correction of the above items must be made prior to the initiation of our professional review. Correction of these technical errors does not necessarily insure that the nomination will then satisfy the National Register criteria in full.

Thank you for your attention to the above items checked.

SIGNED: [Signature]

PROPERTY Brattle, William House STATE Mass
Working number 10.24.72, 1593

TECH REVIEW
Photos 1
Maps 1

6/26/73
Middlesex

REVIEW *Long & lat. can't be checked.*

11/12/72

HISTORIAN

OK
Accept - AM
3/6/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

accept
cell
3-17-73

ARCHITECT

ACCEPT
KH
3/9/73

BRANCH CHIEF

OK 8/27/73
4/27/73

EDITORIAL REVIEW

KEEPER

LDH
4/30

National Register write-up _____
Federal Register entry 7-3-73

Acknowledge 10/26/72
Send-back 3-28-73
Re-submit 4.25.73

Register no. MAY 8 1973



NPS Number 5/2/73

Title: Brattle House

Loc. Middlesex Mass.

northeast facade

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

B. ORR PHOTOGRAPHY

BOX 6

CARLISLE, MASS. 01741

C41 D1 1968 (1108) repair 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

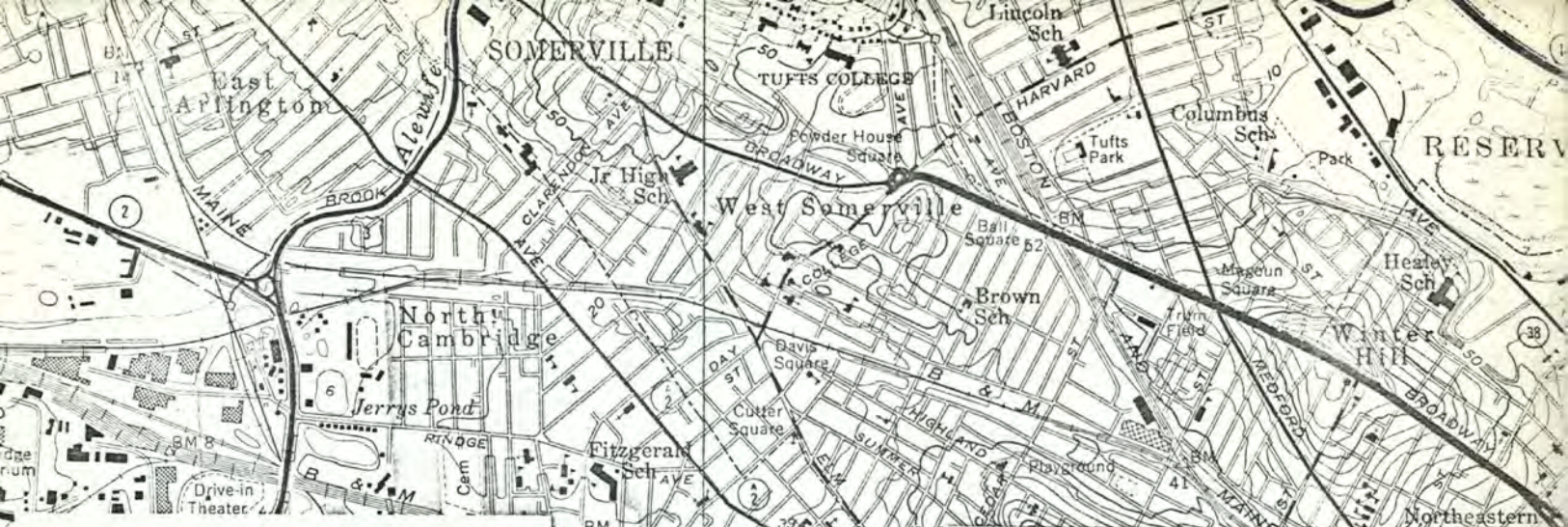
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Massachusetts	
COUNTY Middlesex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	May 8 1973



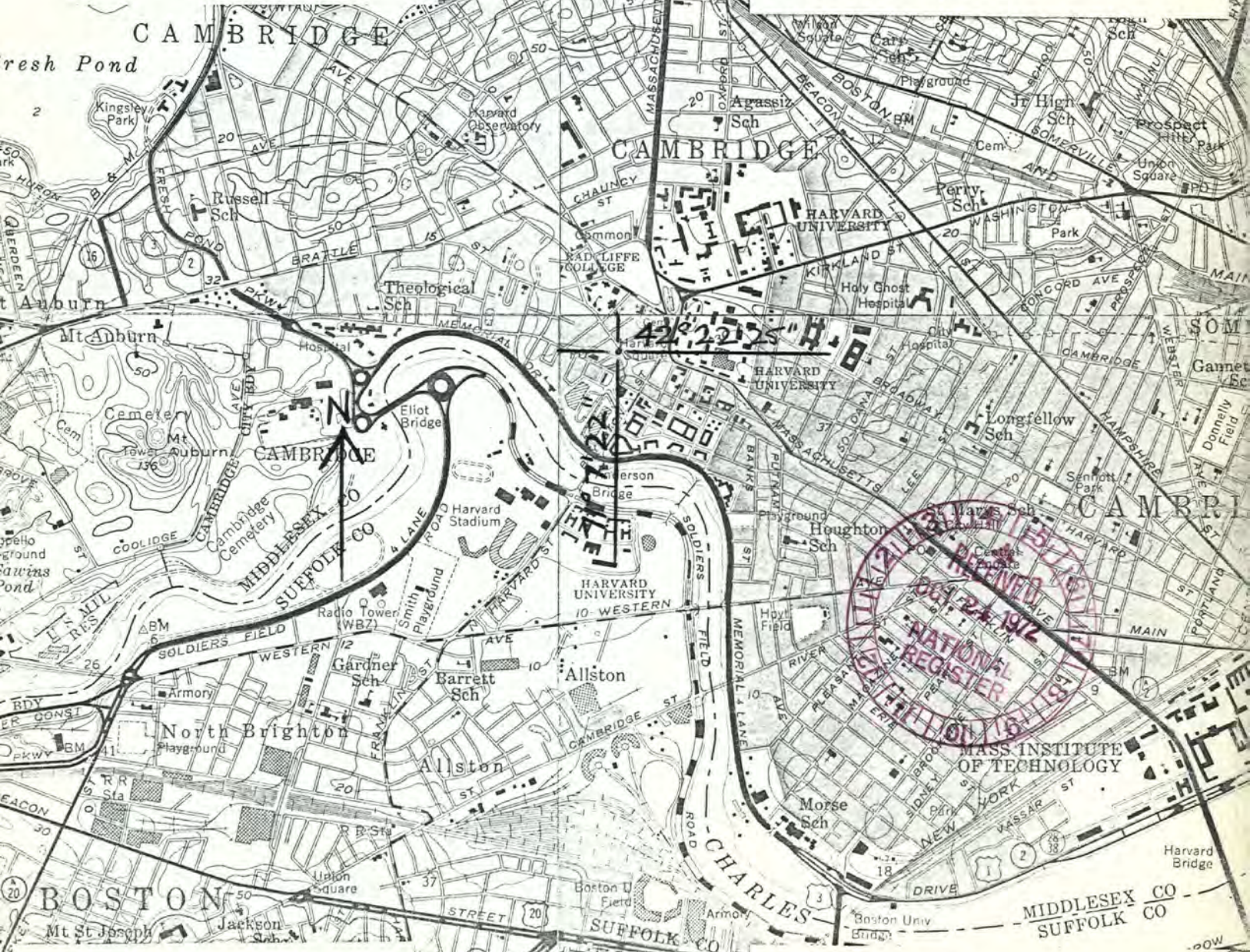
1. NAME			
COMMON: William Brattle House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
42 Brattle Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Cambridge			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Massachusetts	25	Middlesex	017
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:		Boston North, Boston South, U.S.G.S. 7½' Quadrangle Lexington, and Newton (all Mass.)	
SCALE:		1:24,000	
DATE:		1956	
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle
"Lexington, Mass." (1956)
Scale 1:24,000

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle
"Boston North, Mass." (1956)
Scale 1:24,000



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle
"Newton, Mass." (1956)
Scale 1:24,000

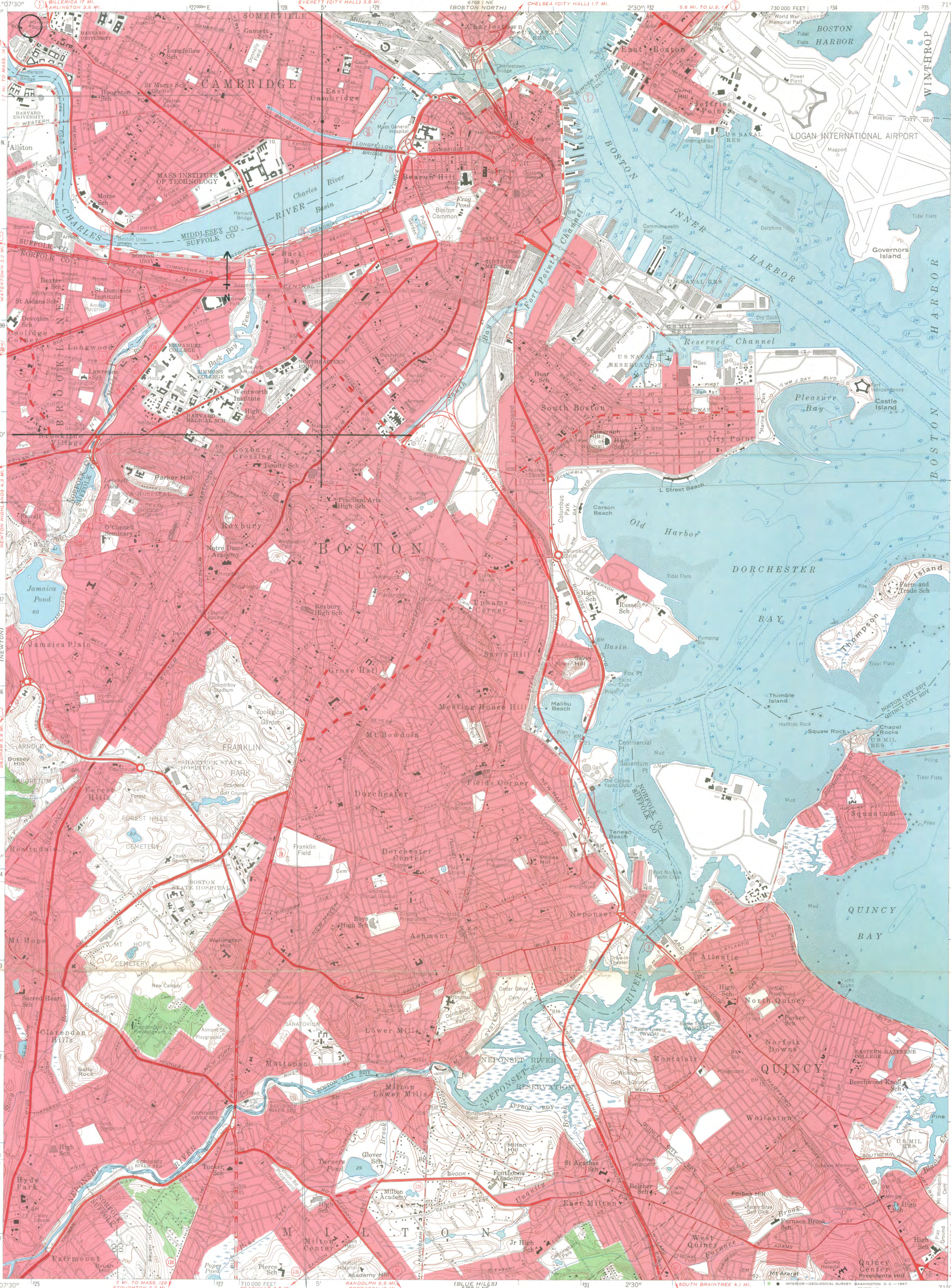
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle
"Boston South, Mass." (1956)
Scale 1:24,000



42° 22' 25"
71° 07' 22"

William Brattle House
Cambridge

H3
2n18
328380
4648660



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

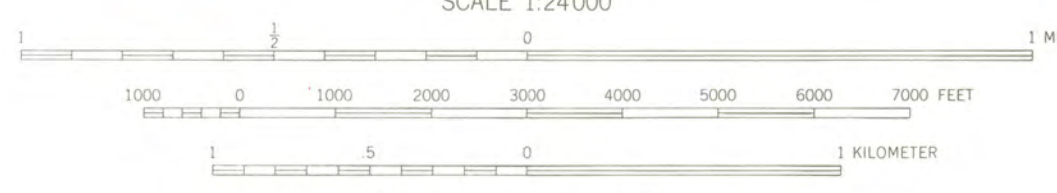
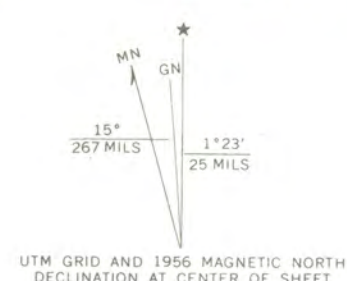
Control by USGS, USC&GS, Mass. Harbor & Land Commission, and Mass. Geodetic Survey

Topography by planetable surveys 1943. Culture revised by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1956.

Hydrography compiled from USC&GS chart 246 (1956)

Polygonic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Massachusetts (Mainland) coordinate system. 1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 19, shown in blue.

Boundaries in tidalwater areas from information supplied by Mass. Dept. of Public Works. Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 9.5 FEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———



BOSTON SOUTH, MASS

N 4215—W 7100/7.5

1956

AMS 6768 1 SE—SERIES V814



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MASSACHUSETTS

Date Entered MAY 8 1973

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
South End District	Boston Suffolk County
Hammond Castle	Gloucester Essex County
Gloucester City Hall	Gloucester Essex County
Brattle (William) House	Cambridge Middlesex County
The House of Seven Gables Historic District	Salem Essex County
Hale (Edward Everett) House	(Roxbury) Boston Suffolk County
Lane (Job) House	Bedford Middlesex County

Also Notified

Hon. Edward M. Kennedy
Hon. Edward W. Brooke
Hon. John Moakley
Hon. Michael J. Harrington
Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr.
Hon. Paul Cronin

Director, Northeast Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Hon. John F. X. Davoren
Secretary of the Commonwealth
Chairman, Massachusetts Historical
Commission
40 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108

5/9/73

NRowland:mm

PHR



News Release

Cambridge Center for Adult Education | 42 Brattle Street | Cambridge, Mass. 02138 | Tel. 547-6789

"CAMBRIDGE CENTER CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL OF SERVICE TO ADULT EDUCATION"

By Dale Vivirito with James M. Rankin, archivist

One hundred years ago, on January 24, 1871, a public meeting was held in Lyceum Hall, chaired by Emory Washburn who after stating the object of the meeting, "went on to advocate in an eloquent manner the advantages and need of an institution in Cambridge, where the young people of both sexes might meet and find facilities for moral and mental improvement." What Emory Washburn so passionately spoke of and transcribed by Mr. C.D. Rice, Secretary, that winter evening is today the Cambridge Center for Adult Education. What was initially intended as a place where young adults might find a free reading room and library and where by some means they might be provided with "innocent amusement and a means for social and intellectual culture during their leisure hours" has become one of the largest and most successful centers for adult education in the country today. Currently in its fall term, the Cambridge Center for Adult Education offers more than three hundred courses in all areas of the arts and humanities as well as special concert programs, guest lectures and rotating exhibits of faculty and student art and craft work.

At the public meeting, Mr. Washburn spoke of the Catholic Church, an institution he thought far in advance of the Protestants at this



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time, using it as a model, an institution with its doors "wide open inviting people to enter to view the works of art and listen to the fine music and by such influences as these the minds of the poorer, as well as the more cultured classes were aroused to nobler and higher aspirations."

Also at that first public meeting was a Mr. W. B. Weeden of Providence, who first gave an account of the Providence Union for Christian Works, an organization already meeting with great response, then urged those present "not to allow sectarianism, religious or secular to creep into the management of the plan, but entrusted all to work well together, feeling certain that patronage would not be tolerated by the lower classes; and that sectarian bigotry could not be submitted to."

One of the many clergy to attend the meeting, Rev. A. B. Muzzey, was very much pleased to see that it "was an association for the benefit of young women as well as men." Rev. Dr. Annable was in favor of the project and entrusted those present to pursue their objective "as men, not as Christians, but as humanitarians." Mr. H. O. Houghton, whose wife was to serve many productive years as one of the Directors hoped this plan would lead "to more union of feeling in the community."

Emory Washburn as well as the other original founders, a list of names that read like a turn of the century Cambridge Who's Who: William Vaughn, who became the first Chairman of the Board, Rev. Samuel Longfellow, one of the first vice-presidents, Legh R. Pearson, a founding Director and the Social Union's first librarian, Edmund Miles, C. A. Winthrop and Frank Corcoran, created what was later



News Release

Cambridge Center for Adult Education | 42 Brattle Street | Cambridge, Mass. 02138 | Tel. 547-6789

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incorporated as the Cambridge Social Union.

What all these people seem to have been responding to was a situation in Harvard Square not greatly unlike what is to be found today--many young adults looking for something to do.

The Cambridge Social Union first opened its doors to anyone over sixteen years of age upon payment of one dollar annual membership in two rented rooms at Lyceum Hall. Having outgrown Lyceum Hall, virtually before it opened, the Union moved first to Palmer and Brattle Streets, where a small riot ensued when the number of applicants soon exceeded the physical size of the facilities--a situation with which the Cambridge Center one hundred years later is still quite familiar. The Union moved next to 15 Brattle, once again increasing its size.

On February 4, 1889, after fifteen years of operation, a permanent location was sought, one with a large hall for concerts, special programs and plays, which might also be rented to outside organizations to bring in increased revenue. The Committee on New Rooms went searching for the proper setting. The price of land in Harvard Square proper was thought too exorbitant and the Committee decided to buy in the direction they thought business would extend--down Brattle Street.

The Social Union raised \$12,000 through subscriptions and contributions and bought two lots of 60 x 120 feet each, one of which happened to include the ancient Brattle House. The house, contrary to expectation, proved to be in such good condition that it was decided to put it in complete repair.

It was found that by the removal of a chimney and some partitions,



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ample room would be made on the lower floor for a reading-room, 17 x 60 feet, occupying the whole of the eastern side. On the western side were two rooms for the library. On the second floor a suite of three rooms over the reading-room afforded excellent accommodations for the Working-Girls' Club and for the industrial branch of the Female Humane Society, while over the library were the Directors' Room with Committee Rooms adjoining.

Amid all the changes required for these purposes the Directors thought to preserve intact the "handsome old-style staircase and the panelled wainscot of the parlor of this historic mansion of the Brattles, which dates before the Revolution."

The house, however, afforded no opportunity for a hall necessary for the Union's weekly entertainments and lectures. Accordingly on the portion of land between the Brattle House and its southern neighbor, The University Press, the Social Union built Brattle Hall, designed by Messrs. Longfellow, Alden, & Harlow of Boston. At that time membership of the Cambridge Social Union was over seven hundred and the library contained over 3000 volumes.

The Cambridge Social Union continued to grow in membership and provide many free services for its members, most of whom were employed in surrounding factories and businesses. These services were not maintained solely through its membership fee of one dollar.

The generous and much needed contributions of money as well as books and periodicals by the Union's many friends and Directors and also their involved and committed participation in the actual day-to-day running of the Union were responsible for its continuing efforts to provide services that were so greatly in demand.

Director of Publicity, Dale Viorito



News Release

Cambridge Center for Adult Education / 42 Brattle Street / Cambridge, Mass. 02138 / Tel. 547-6789

As Miss W.A. Abbot, one of the Union's Directors wrote in the Fifth Annual Report, "many a little makes a muckle." Miss Abbot was referring specifically to the efforts of women who gave one evening a week to work at the Union, but that old Scotch proverb applied to almost all the efforts of those associated with the Union.

When repairs were necessary to the much used facilities, the Committee of Rooms did the carpentry and painting themselves, a practice which continued into the 1940's.

In addition to library privileges and entertainments consisting of dramatic exhibitions, concerts, illustrated lectures, etc., the educational department offered to members of the Union, for an additional fee of fifty cents for each half year of study, the privilege of entering any of the great variety of classes taught by Harvard students.

During World War I, the Union began to decline in the number of services offered and also in the number of gifts and contributions received, most of the original benefactors having died or moved away from Cambridge.

The rental of Brattle Hall was the chief source of revenue, but after the expenses for repairs and janitor service, this yielded little money for the Union's other services. This decline continued after the War and into the thirties with the Union renting Brattle Hall to the Lutheran and Christian Science Churches, as well as portions of Brattle House to the first Cambridge Chapters of both the American Red Cross and the League of Women Voters.

In 1937, a dynamic and visionary Cambridge attorney, Charles Bolster, became Chairman of a New Board of Directors and promptly hired Mrs. Francis C-M Donovan of the Greater Boston Agency for

Social Services to make a feasibility study for continuing the Union's activities. Mrs. Donovan suggested three alternatives for the Union in her report: 1. continuing to act as a social service with the reasonable rental of space to deserving organizations, 2. preserving Brattle House as an historic monument, and 3. providing adult educational services. The Board chose the last alternative and entered into negotiations with Miss Dorothy Hewitt, then Director of the Boston Center for Adult Education, founded some five years earlier.

The result was that on September 1, 1938, the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, an institution governed by the Cambridge Social Union and run by the Boston Center offered seventeen evening courses at Brattle House. Miss Florence D. Chapin, one of the leaders at the Boston Center from its beginning and one of the active members of its organizing committee, functioned as Director, Miss Lydia C. Weare was secretary and Dorothy Hewitt was Executive Director for both Centers.

In January, 1941, the Cambridge Center for Adult Education became an independently administered institution and Lydia Weare was appointed Director.

In that first winter term a total of 225 students attended classes which were offered only on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The Center listed forty-two courses, thirteen of which had to be cancelled because of lack of enrollment. During these years the Cambridge Center continued to cohabit with the Red Cross, the League of Women Voters, a ski association and the Vermont Tweed Shop.

Miss Weare remembers a time in 1942 when they considered closing the Center because of lack of enrollment. It was decided to try

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one more year. The decision was sound and the Cambridge Center served a threefold purpose during the War years by offering such War-related courses as "Nutrition and National Defense", "escape" courses, and providing space for refugees from the European intellectual community with a place to teach.

By 1945 enrollment picked up and a total of 1,626 students enrolled. Year by year the Center enjoyed continued growth in attendance and curriculum. In 1948 Brattle Hall was sold in order to concentrate on the development of the Center's educational facilities.

In December of 1970, after thirty productive years as Director of the Cambridge Center for Adult Education, Lydia C. Weare retired. Alida O'Loughlin was chosen to become the third woman Director of the Center. Working very closely with her staff and aware of the rich and exciting history of the Center, she sees a continuing and vital potential there and for adult education in this country.