

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| In Area no. | Form no.      |
| MID CAMB.   | MC<br>II B 12 |

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number 1106-25A



ASSESSOR # 114A-108

(over)

1. Town Cambridge  
Address 125 Antrim Street  
Name Isaac Fay House  
Present use residential  
  
Present owner Joseph L. Dobrowolski  
3. Description:  
Date 1843  
Source deed records  
Style Greek Revival  
Architect unknown  
Exterior wall fabric clapboard  
Outbuildings (describe) -----  
Other features Large pilasters at corners of porch have leaf molding for capitals, ionic capitals on three columns of wrap-around porch  
  
Altered No Date ----  
Moved Yes Date 1856  
5. Lot size:  
One acre or less xx Over one acre \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximate frontage 30'  
Approximate distance of building from street 25'  
6. Recorded by Elisabeth MacDougall  
Organization Cambridge Historical Comm  
Date 1966

UTM- BOSTON SOUTH  
19/325920/4693120

7. Original owner (if known) Isaac Fay

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |               |                            |               |                         |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Aboriginal            | <u>      </u> | Conservation               | <u>      </u> | Recreation              | <u>      </u> |
| Agricultural          | <u>      </u> | Education                  | <u>      </u> | Religion                | <u>      </u> |
| Architectural         | <u>XX</u>     | Exploration/<br>settlement | <u>      </u> | Science/<br>invention   | <u>      </u> |
| The Arts              | <u>      </u> | Industry                   | <u>      </u> | Social/<br>humanitarian | <u>XX</u>     |
| Commerce              | <u>      </u> | Military                   | <u>      </u> | Transportation          | <u>      </u> |
| Communication         | <u>      </u> | Political                  | <u>      </u> |                         |               |
| Community development | <u>XX</u>     |                            |               |                         |               |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Isaac Fay House is a representative Greek Revival side-hall house distinguished by its elaborate wrap-around Ionic porch and octagonal cupola. The house, which originally stood on Fayette Street, was moved to its present location in 1856. It served as the residence of Isaac Fay, a city alderman and benefactor of the Cambridge Hospital.

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

NOV 14 1980

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Isaac Fay House  
(Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)  
State, County: MA - Middlesex  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 11-14-80-2862  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 4/17/82  
Action: ☐ ACCEPT  
☒ RETURN 4/13/82  
☐ REJECT

☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

photos 1  
maps \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

## Reviewer's comments:

Stronger justification needed beyond  
"representative" Please provide the architectural  
context for this building.

Recom. / Criteria Return  
Reviewer Bralliam  
Discipline Arch. Hs.  
Date 4.6.82  
☐ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below

## 1. Name

## 2. Location

## 3. Classification

| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

## 4. Owner of Property

## 5. Location of Legal Description

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

## 7. Description

| Condition                          | Check one                             | Check one                              |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> moved         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    | <input type="checkbox"/> date _____    |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

## **8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

## **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

USGS References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## **11. Form Prepared By**

## **12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## **13. Other**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Andrews

Signed Bravham Date 4/16-82 Phone: 202 272-3504

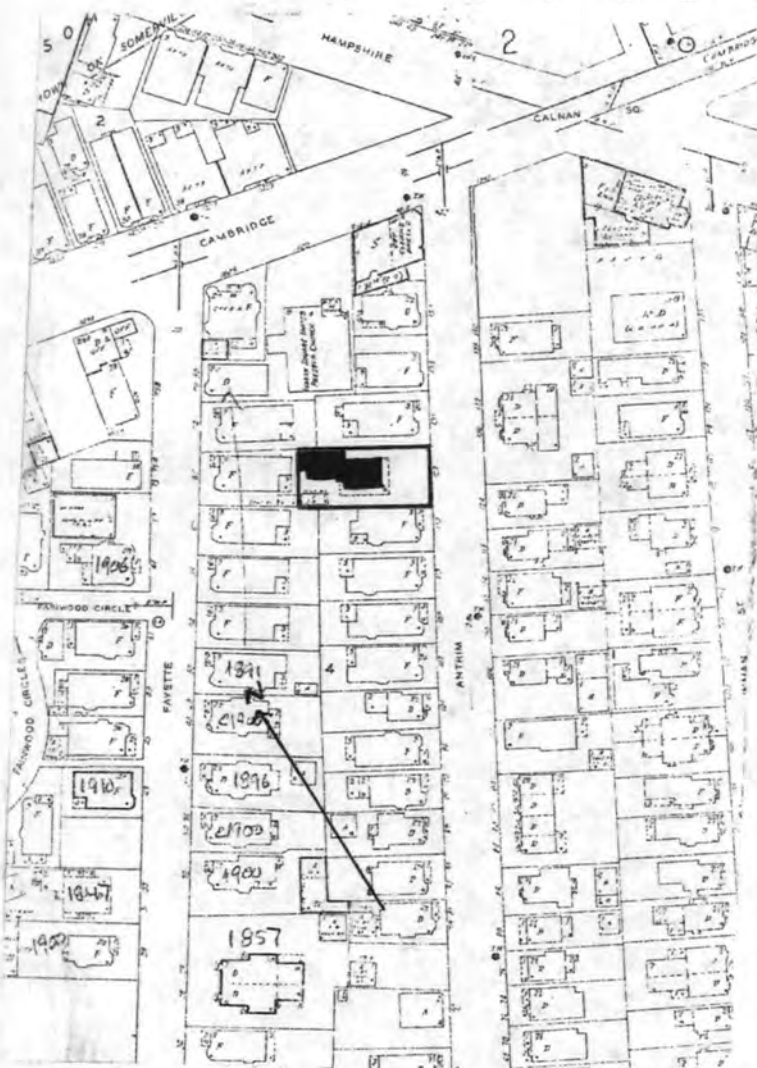
Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

|             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| In Area no. | Form no.      |
| MID CAMB.   | MC<br>II B 12 |

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number 1106-25A



Assessor # 114A-108

(over)

1. Town Cambridge

Address 125 Antrim Street

Name Isaac Fay House

Present use residential

Present owner Joseph L. Dobrowolski

3. Description:

Date 1843

Source deed records

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features Large pilasters at corners of porch have leaf molding for capitals, ionic capitals on three columns of wrap-around porch.

Altered No Date ----

Moved Yes Date 1856

5. Lot size:

One acre or less xx Over one acre -----

Approximate frontage 30'

Approximate distance of building from street

25'

6. Recorded by Elisabeth MacDougall

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm

Date 1966

UTM- BOSTON SOUTH  
19/325920/4693120

7. Original owner (if known) Isaac Fay

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

|                       |           |                            |       |                         |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Aboriginal            | _____     | Conservation               | _____ | Recreation              | _____     |
| Agricultural          | _____     | Education                  | _____ | Religion                | _____     |
| Architectural         | <u>XX</u> | Exploration/<br>settlement | _____ | Science/<br>invention   | _____     |
| The Arts              | _____     | Industry                   | _____ | Social/<br>humanitarian | <u>XX</u> |
| Commerce              | _____     | Military                   | _____ | Transportation          | _____     |
| Communication         | _____     | Political                  | _____ |                         |           |
| Community development | <u>XX</u> |                            |       |                         |           |

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

The Isaac Fay House is a representative Greek Revival side-hall house distinguished by its elaborate wrap-around Ionic porch and octagonal cupola. The house, which originally stood on Fayette Street, was moved to its present location in 1856. It served as the residence of Isaac Fay, a city alderman and benefactor of the Cambridge Hospital.

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

NOV 14 1980

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

|                                                            |                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Community:<br>Mid Cambridge                                | Form No:<br>MC<br>II.B.12 |
| Property Name: Isaac Fay House (1843)<br>125 Antrim Street |                           |

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

The Isaac Fay House is important as one of the city's finest examples of a three-bay side hall Greek Revival House. In remarkably intact condition, the Fay House possesses numerous outstanding decorative element, including a wrap-around Ionic porch and octagonal cupola. It is the only Cambridge example of the Greek Revival to retain these elements intact.

The Fay House was moved from its original location on Fayette Street to its present location in 1856. Two large lots of land south of Cambridge Street began to be built up during the middle years of the nineteenth century. One of the lots included modern Antrim and Fayette Streets. Both of the lots were owned by a series of real estate speculators, and remained unimproved until the 1840s when the area was developed with parallel streets between Broadway and Cambridge Street. Lots were sold and house construction followed rapidly. The Fay House was one of the first houses to be built in the area, and for this reason is important in the history of the development of Mid Cambridge.

The Isaac Fay House is significant under Criterion C as an important example of the Greek Revival style.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 8 of 17

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic GroupName Cambridge Multiple Resource Area  
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Melvin, Isaac, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

72. Saunders, William, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

73. Fay, Isaac, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

74. Buildings at 102-104 Inman St.

Substantive Review

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

75. Buildings at 106-108 Inman St.

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

76. Buildings at 110-112 Inman St.

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

77. Buildings at 1707-1709 Cambridge St.

Substantive Review

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

78. Buildings at 1715-1717 Cambridge St.

Substantive Review

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

79. Deane-Williams House

Substantive Review

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

80. Vinal, Albert, House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Fay, Isaac, House (Cambridge MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MAWorking No. 11.14.80-2862Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84Date Due: 7/4/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/30/83  
☐ RETURN  
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒
- resubmission
- 
- ☐
- nomination by person or local government
- 
- ☐
- owner objection
- 
- ☐
- appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE  
PROVIDEDRecom./Criteria ACCEPT/ATCReviewer her [unclear]Discipline A.H.Date 6.30.83☐ see continuation sheetNomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below  
☐ substantive reasons discussed below1. Name2. Location3. Classification

|          |                    |            |             |
|----------|--------------------|------------|-------------|
| Category | Ownership          | Status     | Present Use |
|          | Public Acquisition | Accessible |             |

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

|                                    |                                       |                                    |                                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Condition                          |                                       | Check one                          | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                    |                                           |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☒
- summary paragraph
- 
- ☐
- completeness
- 
- ☐
- clarity
- 
- ☐
- alterations/integrity
- 
- ☐
- dates
- 
- ☐
- boundary selection

## **8. Significance**

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☐ relationship of integrity to significance  
☐ justification of exception  
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USFT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## **13. Other**

- \_\_\_\_ Maps  
\_\_\_\_ Photographs  
\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1106-25A

NOV 14 1980

0640

Cambridge MRA, Ma

Fay, Isaac, House

125 Ant-trim St

123 Antrim St.

1106-25A

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275