

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
MID CAMB.	MC II C 6

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1104-14A
1098-5

1. Town Cambridge
Address 398 Harvard Avenue
Name Old Cambridge Baptist Church
Present use church

Present owner Old Cambridge Baptist Church

3. Description:

Date 1867-70

Source deed records

Style Gothic Revival

Architect Alexander R. Esty

Exterior wall fabric stone

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features tall stone spire, a prominent Cambridge landmark, many typical Gothic-style features.

Altered No Date -----

Moved Yes Date 1889 - after a fire.

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre -----

Approximate frontage 115'

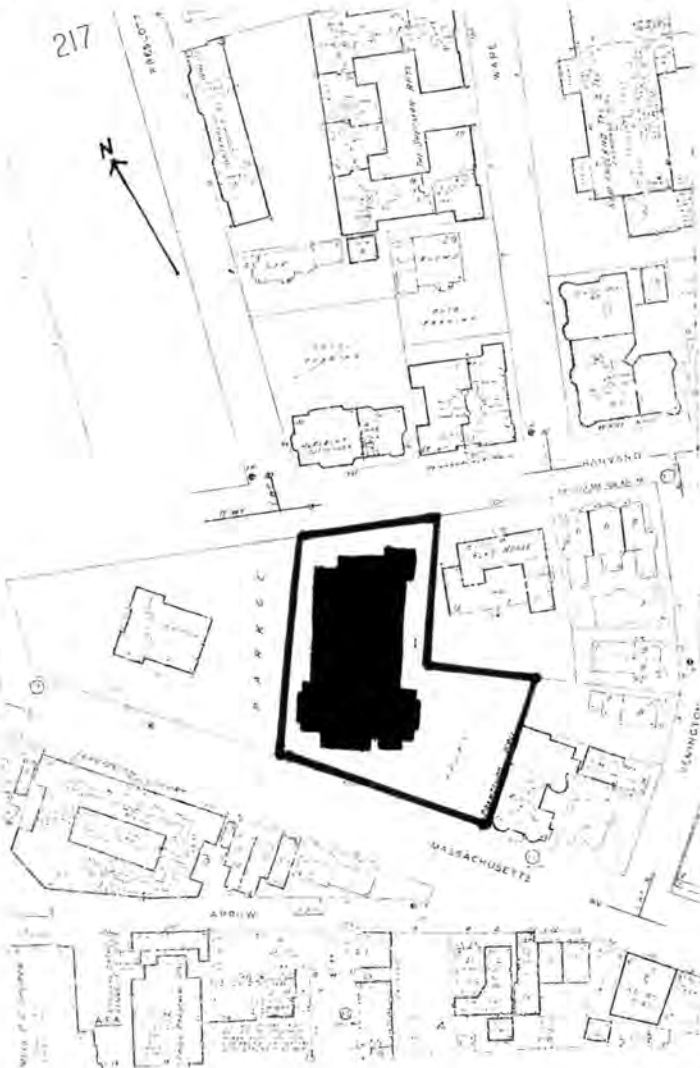
Approximate distance of building from street

28'

6. Recorded by Robert Nylander/Harriet White
Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1967/1980

UTM-BOSTON SOUTH
19/325880/4692980



(over)

Assessor # 134-2

7. Original owner (if known) Old Cambridge Baptist Society

Original use church

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>XX</u>
Architectural	<u>XX</u>	Exploration/ settlement	<u> </u>	Science/ invention	<u> </u>
The Arts	<u> </u>	Industry	<u> </u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u> </u>
Commerce	<u> </u>	Military	<u> </u>	Transportation	<u> </u>
Communication	<u> </u>	Political	<u> </u>		
Community development	<u> </u>				

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

Alexander R. Esty designed this handsome example of Gothic Revival religious architecture. The tall stone spire is a prominent Cambridge landmark. The church exhibits the post-Civil War change in design from the traditional meetinghouse form to the lofty asymmetry of the Gothic Revival. The pointed arches buttresses, turrets and spires combine to produce the style, which prevailed during the late 1860s. The exterior resembles H.H. Richardson's Church of the Unity in Springfield, Massachusetts. The interior was greatly remodelled following an 1889 fire, so that only the nave is unaltered.

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

NOV 14 1980

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 10 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

91. Cummings, e. e., House

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce H. Doyle 6-30-81

Attest

92. Divinity Hall

owner objection withdrawn

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Patricia Andrews 9/12/86

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

93. North Avenue Congregational Church

Keeper

Bruce H. Doyle 6-30-81

Attest

94. Prospect Congregational Church

Keeper

William H. Brackham 4.13.82

Attest

95. University Museum

owner objection withdrawn

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Patricia Andrews 9/12/86

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

96. Old Cambridge Baptist Church

Keeper

William H. Brackham 4.13.82

Attest

97. Ware Hall

Keeper

Bruce H. Doyle 6-30-81

Attest

98. Cambridge Public Library

Keeper

William H. Brackham 4.13.82

Attest

99. Church of the New Jerusalem

Substantive Review

Keeper

Bruce H. Doyle 6-30-81

Attest

100. Busch-Reischinger House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

1.1 6-30-82

Attest

Harvard

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceSubstantive Review
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Old Cambridge Baptist Church
 State, County: MA- Middlesex
 Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-2862

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 4/17/82

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/13/82
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

photos 2

maps _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

Local landmark. Architectural significance
 is based on its form - representing a
 post-civil war transition in
 church architecture.

Recom./Criteria C
 Reviewer Braunham
 Discipline arch / historian
 Date 4.2.82
☐ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

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 _____

UMT 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 _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1098-5

Cambridge MRA, Ma
Old Cambridge Baptist Church

9050

398 Harvard Ave.

1098-5

NOV 14 1980
11 4 1980
14 1980



1104-14A

086C

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MA, Ma
Old Cambridge Baptist Church

398 Harvard Ave.

1104-14A

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275