

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. Old Camb.	Form no. OC IIB12
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2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1104-36A

1. Town Cambridge

Address 1 Potter Park

Name Stillman Willis House

Present use residential

Present owner Nathaniel A. & Helen F. Parker.

3. Description:

Date 1839

Source deed records

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) garage (1905 add.)

Other features basic Greek Revival house with impressive amounts of ornamentation added subsequently.

Altered Yes- over years Date -----
ornamentation added

Moved Yes Date 1883

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre

Approximate frontage 140 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

2 feet

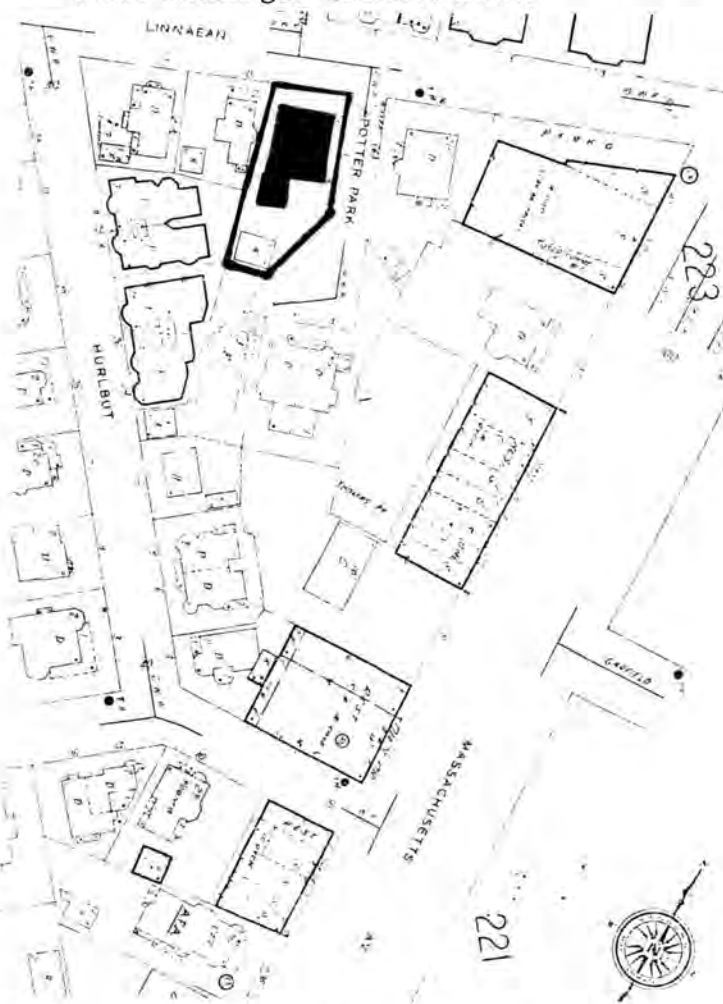
6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm

Date 1964

UTM - BOSTON NORTH
19/325400/4694420

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



ASSESSOR #175-64

7. Original owner (if known) Stillman Willis

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/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

This house is a textbook example of a drastic updating of a Greek Revival house. It originally stood at 1740 Massachusetts Avenue, with large fields behind it, yet ^{was} convenient to the Porter Square train station and therefore within easy commuting distance of Boston. The house was moved to its present location in 1883 and underwent a large-scale modernization characterized by elaborate Colonial Revival and Italianate ornamentation applied to its basic Greek Revival form.

The Greek Revival eaves, entablature, pedimented gable, Ionic porch columns, flush siding and fenestration all remain. To this were added great amounts of pressed ornamentation, plus window cornices with brackets, panels with cartouches, a frieze of disks and heavily molded bases at the level of the window sills. The horseshoe arches with scrolls and openwork at each end of the porch were added as were the "triglyphs" and garlands of the porch frieze.

The house is unique in Cambridge, and perhaps in Massachusetts. Thus, despite its move in 1883 when development pressures forced it unto a side street, it is worthy of recognition for its unique architectural detailing.

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

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 14 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

131. Conventual Church of St. Mary
and St. John

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

132. Second Cambridge Savings
Bank Building

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Barbara L. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

133. Frost, David, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Barbara L. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

134. Howe House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Barbara L. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

135. Lowell, The

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Barbara L. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

136. Willis, Stillman, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

137. Second Waterhouse House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Barbara L. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

138. Harvard Observatory

SEARS TOWER -
owner objection
withdrawn

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Caree D. Hull 2-26-82

Attest

Betty L. Sarge 2-26-82

139. Almshouse

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

140. Lovell Block

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Barbara L. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Willis Stillman, House (Cambridge
Multiple Resource Area)
 State, County: MA - Middlesex
 Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-2862

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 7-17-82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/13/82☐ RETURN☐ REJECT

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

photos 1
 maps _____

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

Reviewer's comments:

*Unique as an entity - for its colonial
 reutilization of an earlier structure.*

Recom./Criteria CReviewer BraunDiscipline Arch/HisDate 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	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		☐ 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

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT 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



1104-36A

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MA, Ma.

086C

Willis, St. Mary, House

1 Potter Park

1104-36A

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275