

MISSION
Boston

In Area no. Old Camb.	Form no. OC IIC5
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1. Town Cambridge
Address 1320-24 Massachusetts Avenue

Name Porcellian Club

Present use residential/commercial

Present owner Edward Bigelow, Leverett, Saltonstall & John Gardiner, Trustees of the Porcellian Club, 294 Washington Street, Boston.

3. Description:

Date 1890

Source deed records

Style Federal Revival

Architect William Y. Peters

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features primarily brick with brownstone trim. Good example of the Federal Revival style.

Altered No Date -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 200 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
0 feet

6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1964

UTM - BOSTON SOUTH

19/325590/4693140



Assessor # 160-24

7. Original owner (if known) Porcellian Club

Original use commercial/club purposes

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residential/commercial/club

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/ 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)

1961 1 AON

Brown Roman brick was used for the austere facade of the Porcellian Club. The shop front, the entrance door to the clubrooms, and the window are detailed in a delicate manner foreshadowing the emerging Federal Revival style.

The club itself was established in 1791 as an exclusive private club for Harvard students. This building, constructed to mark the club's one hundredth anniversary, continues in use as a meeting place for the club.

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Porcellian Club (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

photos 1

maps _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

Architectural significance has not been demonstrated. Associations with the Porcellian Club itself are insufficiently documented. - Was this a significant campus organization? etc etc.

Recom./Criteria Return

Reviewer Brankman

Discipline Arch Hist

Date 4.13.82

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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ 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

Acres 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 Andrew

Signed Brachman Date 4/13-82 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.
Old Camb.	02 IIC5

1. Town Cambridge

Address 1320-24 Massachusetts Avenue

Name Porcellian Club

Present use residential/commercial

Present owner Edward Bigelow, Leverett, Saltonstall & John Gardiner, Trustees of the Porcellian Club, 294 Washington Street, Boston.

3. Description:

Date 1890

Source deed records

Style Federal Revival

Architect William Y. Peters

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features primarily brick with brownstone trim. Good example of the Federal Revival style.

Altered No Date -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 200 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

0 feet

6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

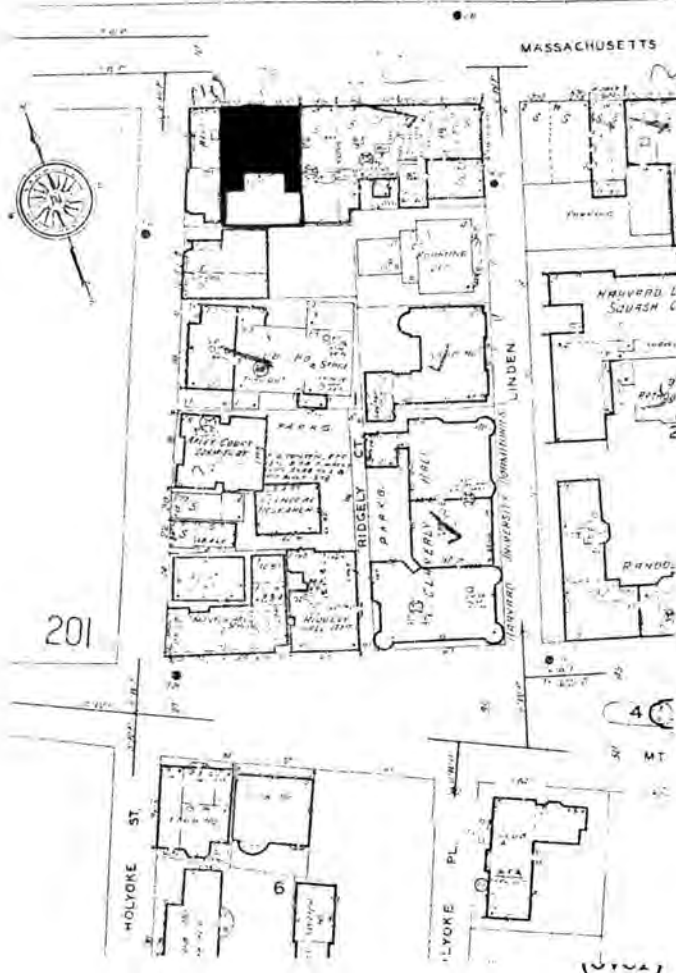
Date 1964

UTM - BOSTON SOUTH

19/325590/4693140

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1108-28

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



Assessor # 160-24

7. Original owner (if known) Porcellian Club
 Original use commercial/club purposes
 Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residential/commercial/club

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	☐	Conservation	☐	Recreation	☐
Agricultural	☐	Education	☐	Religion	☐
Architectural	☒	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)

Brown Roman brick was used for the austere facade of the Porcellian Club. The shop front, the entrance door to the clubrooms, and the window are detailed in a delicate manner foreshadowing the emerging Federal Revival style.

The club itself was established in 1791 as an exclusive private club for Harvard students. This building, constructed to mark the club's one hundredth anniversary, continues in use as a meeting place for the club.

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: Old Cambridge	Form No: OC II.C.5
Property Name: Porcellian Club	

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

Harvard's "final clubs" are essentially fraternities or secret societies, open only to juniors and seniors; "final" refers to the fact that one can belong to only one final club. The Porcellian was the third to be established at Harvard, in 1791, after the Speakers Club (1770) and a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa (1781). It quickly became the most aristocratic, and attracted members from the elite families of Boston, Philadelphia, Charleston, and the Old South. By the turn of the century, the Porcellian, like all the other final clubs of the era, maintained a clubhouse with a dining room, billiard room, and other requirements of upper class undergraduate life. The Porcellian remains the most prestigious, and the most limited in membership of Harvard's final clubs.

Architecturally, the Porcellian Club is a fine example of Federal Revival architecture. The main entrance features an elliptical fanlight window and side lights. The elliptical motif is repeated over the Palladian window on the second floor. Broken scroll pediments top the eight-over-eight dormers, under which all the windows on the front facade line up. The dormers are also decorated with pilaster strips. The entrance side of the building is emphasized by the double dormers, over the paired windows, over the Palladian window, over the entrance. The flatness of the facade, the delicacy of the window details, and the harmonious relationship of the parts are features displayed here which were common to Federal architecture.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

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 13 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

121. Worcester, Frederick, House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Power Mac May 6-30-83

Attest

122. Porcellian Club

Keeper

Power Mac May 6-30-83

Attest

123. Lowell School

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

124. Frost, Elizabeth, Tenanthouse

Substantive Review

Keeper

Power Mac May 6-30-83

Attest

125. Wyeth, Augustus, House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

11/1/82

Attest

126. Brattle Hall

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

127. Frost, Robert, House

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

128. Stedman, Samuel, House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Ret 6/1/82

Attest

129. Mount Auburn Hospital -

Surgical Building

Determined Eligible

Substantive Review

Keeper

Power Mac May 6-30-83

Attest

130. Dodge, Edward, House

Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Porcellian Club (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MA

Working No. 11.14.80-2862

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84

Date Due: 7/4/83

Action: ☒ 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:

SIGNIFICANCE REVISED
APPROPRIATELY

Recom. / Criteria ATC/ACCEPT

Reviewer Mr. [Signature]

Discipline A.P.L.

Date 6.30.83

☐ 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
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☒ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates

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 — *ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT LACKING*
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT 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



1108-28

NOV 14 1980

0630

Cambridge MRA, Ma

Porcellian Club

1320-24 Massachusetts Av.

1108-28

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275