

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
MID CAMB.	MC II B 10

1. Town Cambridge

Address 19 Centre Street

Name Isaac Melvin House

Present use residential

Present owner Unihab Renovate, Inc.
25 Mt. Auburn St., Camb.

3. Description:

Date 1842

Source deed records

Style Greek Revival/Italianate

Architect Isaac Melvin & Oliver Woods

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) originally included a mansard carriage house.
Other features physical layout is

Italianate. Features are primarily
Greek Revival.

Altered minor remodelling Date several times

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre

Approximate frontage 83'

Approximate distance of building from street

18'

6. Recorded by E. MacDougall

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1966

UTM-BOSTON SOUTH
19/326300/4692770

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1104-12A

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



(over)

Assessor # 116-82

7. Original owner (if known) Isaac Melvin

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residential

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 important Italianate mansion was built in 1842 by prominent local architect Isaac Melvin and his colleague Oliver Woods. Melvin was also the architect of the North Avenue Congregational Church (1845) in Northwest Cambridge, a significant religious structure in the city.

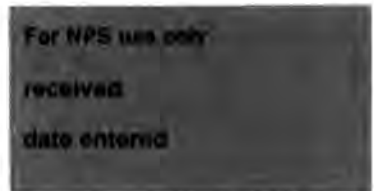
Number 19 Centre Street is an Italianate cross gable form with a strong vertical emphasis. Elaborate applied ornament was taken from standard pattern books of the period. Notable features include the Greek Revival pilasters, octagonal cupola and heavy pediments at the gable ends.

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



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 8 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Melvin, Isaac, House

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

William H. Brasham 4.13.82

Attest

72. Saunders, William, House

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Bruce M. Boyd 6.30.83

Attest

73. Fay, Isaac, House

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Bruce M. Boyd 6.30.83

Attest

74. Buildings at 102-104 Inman St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Bruce M. Boyd 6.30.83

Attest

75. Buildings at 106-108 Inman St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

William H. Brasham 4.13.82

Attest

76. Buildings at 110-112 Inman St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

William H. Brasham 4.13.82

Attest

77. Buildings at 1707-1709 Cambridge St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Bruce M. Boyd 6.30.83

Attest

78. Buildings at 1715-1717 Cambridge St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Bruce M. Boyd 6.30.83

Attest

79. Deane-Williams House

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

William H. Brasham 4.13.82

Attest

80. Vinal, Albert, House

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Bruce M. Boyd 6.30.83

Attest

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Isaac Melvin 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 4/13/82
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____

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

photos
maps _____

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Important ~~site~~ Italianate mansion with Greek revival motifs - built by a prominent local architect.

Recom./Criteria B+C
Reviewer Braun
Discipline Arch/Hist
Date 5.4.82
 see continuation sheet

(# 8 - could have been stronger)

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"/> 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

for NPS use only

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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 _____

USMT 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 _____

Site _____ 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



1104-12A

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MA, Ma

O B G C

Melvin, Isaac, House

19 Centre St.

1104-12A

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275