

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form128
JAN 16 1990

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Central Square Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Main and Inman Streets, Central Square, Massachusetts Avenue
city, town Cambridge (Cambridgeport) not for publication
state Massachusetts code MA county Middlesex code 017 zip code 02138

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☒ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>60</u>	<u>27</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<u>0</u> objects
<u>61</u>	<u>28</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Cambridge MRANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register See Continuation

Sheet

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Valerie H. Talmage
Signature of certifying official Executive Director, Massachusetts Historical
State Historic Preservation officer

Date 1/2/90
Commission;

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Perla L. Sarge
Signature of the Keeper03-02-90
Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic / single, Multiple Dwelling;
Hotel; Secondary Structure
Commerce / Business professional;
Financial Institution; Specialty
Store; Restaurant; Warehouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic / Single, Multiple Dwelling
Commerce / Business; Professional;
Financial Institution; Specialty Store;
Restaurant
Social / Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)
Early Republic / Federal
Late Victorian / italianate; Second Empire;
Richardsonian Romanesque; Renaissance
Revivla, Victorian, Gothic Revival;
Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)
 foundation Stone
 walls Brick, Brownstone, Limestone,
Wood, Steel, Cast Stone
 roof Slate
 other Granite, Metal, Terra Cotta,
Tile, Concrete, Stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Central Square National Register District consists of a seven-block-long section of Massachusetts Avenue, the main east-west artery in the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The district runs in a linear fashion along Massachusetts Avenue roughly from Bigelow and Sellers Streets to what is known locally as Lafayette Square, a triangular point of land formed by the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Main Street. It incorporates the City Hall National Register District listed in 1982 and contains 89 commercial, institutional, industrial, and residential buildings dating from 1807 to 1987. Of these, 61 are considered contributing. There are 28 noncontributing buildings in the district: 13 of these postdate the period of significance and the other 15 are earlier buildings that have lost integrity through later alterations. There are two major structures in the district: the street pattern, which is considered contributing, and a newly landscaped gateway park at River Street and Western Avenue, which is noncontributing by virtue of its age. In addition, there are 9 small parking areas incorporated on lots of buildings included in the district; these are considered noncontributing structures.

The major themes of Cambridgeport's development (commercial, residential, and industrial growth tied to transportation improvements) are reflected in Central Square's buildings. The following description identifies contributing buildings and structures (both key and representative) in chronological order.

Dana Row, 452-454-456-458 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #49): Built in 1807, Dana, or South, Row is a three-story, hip-roofed brick Federal rowhouse. Two units of the original four-unit residential row survive. The east side elevation is intact, although commercial usage since the late 19th century has resulted in alterations to the first floor of the facade, including the addition of storefronts. The buildings was stuccoed ca. 1925 and had a picture window installed on the second floor at 456-458 ca. 1950. Dana Row is the oldest surviving building in the district and the sole surviving structure associated with the earliest mode of settlement at Lafayette Square.

Syrian Orthodox Catholic Church of Saint Mary, 8 Inman Street (Map #3): This church, originally constructed in 1822 as the First Universalist Church in

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MA

Section number 6 Page 1

Historic Functions

Social / Meeting Hall
Government / Post Office; Fire Station; Police Station; City Hall
Religion / Religious Structure
Funerary / Mortuary
Recreation / Theater
Health Care / Medical Office
Transportation / Road-related

Current Functions

Government / Post Office; Fire Station; Police Station; City Hall
Religion / Religious Structure
Funerary / Mortuary
Recreation / Theater
Transportation / Road-related

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MA

Section number 6 Page 2

Architectural Classification

Late 19th Century Revival / Mission Style; Colonial Revival; Beaux Arts;
Classical Revival; Tudor Revival

No Style

Modern Movement / Moderne, Brutalist, Streamlined Moderne

Late 19th Century American Movement / Sullivanesque

Mid-19th Century / Greek Revival

CHIEFTAIN BOND
50% COTTON FIBER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 7 Page 1

Lafayette Square, was moved in 1889. In 1858, the original two-story gable-roofed design (presumably a simple Federal meetinghouse) was updated in the Italianate style by Thomas Silloway, a Unitarian minister-turned-architect. It had a tall, four-stage steeple, heavily carved and moulded, atop a projecting gabled porch with a large, arched central entrance. In 1888, as the Lafayette Square section of Central Square became thoroughly commercial, the congregation moved the church to its present location. In 1954, the church was purchased by the Syrian Orthodox Catholic parish of Saint Mary. At some point in the twentieth century, the steeple was cut down to its base and a wheel window inserted in the porch.

Flavel Coolidge House, 2 Coolidge Place (Map #28): The Flavel Coolidge House is a three-story, frame, late Federal-style house built in 1834. Although a one-story shed built in the 1970s covers the first floor facade, the upper two floors are intact and display the five bay organization and foreshortened third-floor windows typical of its period of construction.

Chamberlain-Hyde Block, 684-688 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #76): Built in 1869, the Chamberlain-Hyde Block is a four-story, mansard-roofed brick commercial building in the Second Empire style. While the original first floor storefronts have been altered, the building is otherwise intact. Built for rental purposes by Daniel Chamberlain and Dana Hyde, who ran hardware and dry goods stores in Central Square, the block was originally rented to the George Woods Company, which manufactured "vestry and parlor organs" in the building.

Whitney Building, 893-907 Main Street (Map #33): Built in 1870-1871, the Whitney Building is a Second Empire-style, four-story brick block of flats with ground-floor stores. Its long Main Street facade is broken into two four-bay sections enclosed within projecting bays. The mansard attic story, with a patterned slate roof, is punctuated by dormers. It is the earliest surviving block of flats in Central Square.

Watriss Building/Second Cambridgeport Post Office, 643-649 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #12): Built and owned by William Watriss in 1880, this two-story, bracketed commercial block was rented to George Ricker, an undertaker, and to the Cambridgeport Post Office in the 1880s. Though the first-floor stores have been altered, the second-story treatment is intact, with granite sills and lintels on the windows and a projecting bracketed cornice above. The Watriss Building is the earliest extant office building in Central Square. It stands in the commercial core of Central Square. In contrast to peripheral blocks, where commercial and residential uses mix, the 600 block of Central Square has never had more than five residential units since 1905.

F. W. and G. M. Rogers Building, 453-457 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #27): The

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 7 Page 2

Rogers Building is a five-story, Panel Brick-style apartment block constructed in 1885 for Cambridge doctor G.M. Rogers and his son, a real estate salesman in Boston. The Rogerses resided on Norfolk Street, just north of this building. Stores occupy the ground floor. The facade of the building is flush and six bays wide, while pressed metal-clad bays project from the Coolidge Place elevation.

Taylor Shop and Residence, 411 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #31): Built in 1887, the three-story Panel Brick Taylor Shop and Residence is the only intact example in Central Square of its type--a structure built to house the owner and his business (in this instance, undertaking). Though common elsewhere in Cambridge, such structures were scarce in Central Square after the 1870s. Also known as the "Lafayette Square" building, after a name placque on the facade, the Taylor Building contains a storefront entrance and an offset entrance to the side, leading to a dwelling above.

The Cambridge Mutual Fire Insurance Company Building, 763 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #2): The Fire Insurance Company building, built in 1888, was designed by Cambridge architect John A. Hasty. It is a handsome Richardsonian Romanesque building, four stories tall, built of brownstone and granite, with polychromatic checkerboard masonry bands. It is an important stylistic companion to the City Hall, which stands opposite it across Inman Street.

The Longfellow, 492-498 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #52): The Longfellow, built in 1893, is a five-story, buff and red brick apartment block with ground-floor storefronts wrapping around from Massachusetts Avenue to Brookline Street. It was designed by Cambridge architect C. Herbert McClare, and with The Kennedy (Map #46, 430-442 Massachusetts Avenue) is an outstanding apartment block. Sullivanesque in its organization, the building consists of a "base" of storefronts with a three-story "shaft" capped by a "capital" with a floor of arched windows and a broad projecting cornice. Originally, the block contained twelve apartments of four and five rooms each. Built by a Boston doctor, George R. Southwick, The Longfellow reflects speculators' hopes that eastern Massachusetts Avenue might develop to rival Boston's Back Bay after the Harvard Bridge opened in 1890. Southwick himself lived a mile east of The Longfellow at West Chester Park, as the Boston continuation of Massachusetts Avenue was then known. In fact, only four apartment blocks were constructed on the Cambridge side: The Longfellow, Kennedy, Lamson (Map #40), and Riverbank Court (301-308 Memorial Drive, NR 1982).

Clark-Lamb Building, 546-550 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #60): The Clark-Lamb Building is typical of the simple commercial blocks of Central Square. Three stories tall and constructed of red brick, the Clark-Lamb Building contains two ground-floor storefronts and an offset entrance to the offices on the upper floors. A plain Colonial Revival design, the building features

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 7 Page 3

tripartite windows set in flat-arched surrounds with keystones. It is capped by a shallow projecting dentil cornice and a plain parapet. It is possible that the current facade results from the 1902 remodeling of an earlier Victorian Gothic building since building records do not reveal either a demolition permit or permits for new construction. Regardless of the actual date of construction, the site has housed an office block since ca. 1870, and thus the building reflects the commercial growth of the Square between 1867 and 1912.

Cambridgeport Savings Bank, 685-697 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #8): The Cambridgeport Savings Bank, built in 1904 and designed by Chamberlain and Blackall, is the district's only Beaux Arts classical building and an important example of that style in Cambridge. Three stories tall and cubical in mass, the bank is a monumentally scaled limestone-clad structure. Wide, rusticated pilasters define the corner bays, while the five recessed central facade bays are dominated by an engaged Corinthian portico. The cornice of the building has been altered and is now a broad, plain band. Originally, it stepped up from a central balustrade to corner blocks ornamented with large round plaques containing the city seal. The Bank is an important institution in the city. In terms of its setting and design, it relates well to the other institutional buildings immediately to the west.

Prospect House, 614-620 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #64): Although the building on this site was built in 1869, its most outstanding feature is an elaborate Tudor Revival white terracotta facade, added in a 1908 remodeling by Cambridge architects Newhall and Blevins. The facade is the city's finest extant terracotta work. The remodeling marked the shift of the building from hotel to office use.

Originally a brownstone-faced Italianate building, Prospect House was transformed in 1908 into a three bay, highly vertical composition of tall, four-story Tudor arches. The demise of the Prospect House Hotel may have been related to a municipal ordinance, first passed in 1887 and renewed annually through Prohibition, banning the licensing of taverns in Cambridge. The hotel, which served a transient clientele and included a boarding stable on Green Street, may have acquired an unsavory reputation, despite the No-License ordinance, as it was the scene of arrests for illegal gambling in the late 19th century. A fading painted sign on the east elevation advertising the stable reflects the building's original use.

Cambridge Electric Light Company Building, 719 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #7): This Renaissance Revival structure, designed by the Boston firm of Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge, was built in 1912 as the administrative headquarters of the Cambridge Gas Company. After merger with the Cambridge Electric Light Company, the building continued to serve as office space. The building is a

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 7 Page 4

two-story limestone cube with a monumental first story with arched windows. The second-story windows are topped with alternating triangular and segmental-arched pediments and spaced between shallow Corinthian pilasters.

Kane's Furniture, 493-500 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #24): The Kane's Furniture building was built in 1916 and is a red brick structure, four stories tall, in a utilitarian commercial style. It is simply detailed and features first-floor show windows and a large marquee for permanent light signage. Second-floor windows contain two divided sash with transoms, which light showroom space in that floor, while the top two floors contain double-hung 1/1 sash. This building, with two others nearby at 485 and 430-442 Massachusetts Avenue, formed a core of retail furniture stores operating in Central Square. Beginning in the 1920s, and continuing through the present, furniture retailing has been one of Central Square's key businesses.

Central Square Theatre, 571-575 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #19): The Central Theatre (originally the Strand) was built in 1917 and designed by Cambridge architect William Mowll. Two stories tall, the building originally extended to the rear with an auditorium and stage section, but this was demolished ca. 1962. What survives of the theatre is its facade and a structure that was originally the lobby. Despite the loss of its rear wing, the building still presents a well-detailed face to the street. The facade, with six window bays recessed behind a continuous enframing of flat pilasters and a classical cornice, features blue and yellow pressed tile Adamesque ornament.

Central Square Building, 674 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #75): The Central Square Building was built in 1926 and designed by Blackall, Clapp and Whittemore. Ten stories tall, of steel and cast stone construction, the building was Cambridge's first skyscraper and remained one of fewer than a half dozen high-rise buildings in the city until the mid 1980s. An anomaly in Central Square until 1966 (when the Commonwealth Gas office tower was built), the Central Square building is a handsome and well-detailed structure with ornament in the Tudor Revival style. Bays are paired within buttressed piers and topped by a cornice articulated with lancet-arched blind tracery. The Central Square building anchors an important corner at the prominent intersection of Prospect Street and Massachusetts Avenue.

Central Square Realty Trust Building, 468-480 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #51): The Central Square Realty Trust Building was built in 1929 and designed by Cambridge architect F. A. Norcross. It is typical of the one-story storefronts built in Central Square in the 1920s, with a row of storefronts extending down Massachusetts Avenue and onto Brookline Street. The building is of brick construction with concrete facing and is detailed in a simplified version of Tudor Revival. The typical storefront consists of a two-bay-wide unit with a center entry; luxfer prism glass transoms fill the upper section

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 7 Page 5

of each unit, which is topped by a concrete parapet. The Central Square Realty Trust building is one of the largest examples of this type of building in the city.

Saint Peter's Episcopal Church, 836 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #87): Organized in 1842, Saint Peter's Church is Cambridge's second Episcopal Church. The present building was built in 1867 to designs of Alexander R. Esty, a prominent mid-19th century Boston architect known for his churches. It was remodeled in 1932 by the firm of Allen and Collins, noted for their work in the Gothic Revival style. The one-and-a-half-story church building is located at the top of a sloping site with a two-and-a-half-story stucco Parish House (1930, C.N. Cogswell) attached at the rear. In 1932, the frame Gothic Revival church was updated with a brick and stone English Gothic Revival facade and a square bell tower was added at the corner of the building. The plan and polychromatic slate roof of the 1867 building are the most prominent features of the original design to survive.

White Tower Restaurant, 225 Central Square (Map #74): The one-story, white glazed brick restaurant at 25 Central Square was built in 1932 for the White Tower Restaurant chain and remodeled by the company in 1938. As originally built, the restaurant displayed the medieval-style crenellations and buttressed tower of the first design phase of the franchise. In 1938, some four years after the company shifted from its original version, the building was refaced with white porcelain enamel paneling. In the 1970s, the paneling was removed and the original appearance recaptured. The building is representative of several franchise businesses which first appeared in Central Square around the turn of the century. Franchises, such as Woolworth's and Kresge's, had their largest stores in Central Square, indicating the importance of the area as a focus of Cambridge retail.

Recent Changes

Since 1950, there have been many changes to the appearance of buildings in Central Square. The alterations of the 1950s and 1960s consisted largely of refacing earlier storefronts with steel, glass, chrome, or plastic signage and paneling. Those buildings in which such changes have irreversibly altered the original design have been designated noncontributing. Since the 1970s, however, more thorough-going changes to some buildings have occurred. In some cases, such as at 552-566 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #61), which is now stuccoed over, the building retains its original qualities. In other cases, recent economic growth has enabled a complete rebuilding of the original building. This is the case at 541-545 and 551-563 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #22), where a modest Art Deco stepped parapet storefront block has been cut out on the first floor to incorporate setback storefronts and access to a basement office space. Likewise, other buildings, including the Central

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 7 Page 6

Square building (Map #75), Prospect House (Map #64), and the Central Trust Building (Map #23), have been refurbished in keeping with their historic character.

There are relatively few recent intrusions in Central Square. In the 1950s, the Hyde Block was rebuilt for Woolworth's store (Map #13) on the same footprint and to the same height as the earlier building. A solitary experiment in high-rise construction in the 1960s resulted in the New England Gas and Electric Association building at 671-675 Massachusetts Avenue (Map #9). An undistinguished modern tower, the NEGEA high-rise overshadows a more intriguing low-rise section of the building (Map #10) built six years earlier by Joseph Luis Sert, a disciple of Le Corbusier. In the 1970s, two fast-food chains constructed one-story buildings in Central Square, but a recent moratorium on fast-food restaurants has curtailed further franchise construction.

Future growth in Central Square will be tied to a strong market for office and retail space in Kendall and Harvard Squares (the historic terminus of the Massachusetts Avenue-Main Street axis). That market is creating incentives to upgrade and replace commercial buildings all along Massachusetts Avenue. As the real estate market in Cambridge continues to expand, Central Square's buildings will come under renewed pressure for change.

Planning Issues

This nomination was developed by the Cambridge Historical Commission in conjunction with preparation of the Central Square Action Plan, a comprehensive economic development and zoning study produced by the Cambridge Community Development Office. The Plan is designed to encourage responsible development and commercial revitalization in Central Square. The National Register district identifies elements of Central Square that should be respected and preserved as new development takes place. It is a goal of the Action Plan to tie contributing National Register properties to a series of zoning incentives for preservation as part of a proposed overlay district amendment to Central Square's existing base zoning. It is hoped that the National Register district will encourage commercial property owners to conduct certified rehabilitation of their properties. The Cambridge City Council adopted the Central Square Action Plan at its February 8, 1988 meeting.

Survey Methodology

The inventory file and research collection of the Cambridge Historical Commission formed the basis of this nomination. Every property in the city of Cambridge is recorded with a photograph, date of construction, and

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MA

Section number 7 Page 7

architectural analysis as part of the Commission's architectural inventory. In addition, research was conducted in the building permit files, photographic images, maps and atlases, and city directories for Central Square, also on file with the Cambridge Historical Commission.

(continued)

CHIEFTAIN BOND
50% COTTON FIBER

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MA

Section number 7 Page 8

Archaeological Description

While no prehistoric sites are currently recorded in the district, it is possible that sites are present. At least three prehistoric sites have been recorded in the general area (within one mile). In general, however, the potential for prehistoric sites seems low due to extensive late 19th and 20th century development, limited open space (nine small parking lots) and because most known prehistoric sites in the area occupy locations in close proximity to wetland resource while the district occupies a more inland location

Extensive late-historic-period development also limits the potential for significant historic-period remains on the property. Structural remains and occupational related features (trash pits, privies, wells) of a hay scale, blacksmith shops, warehouses and at least seven taverns and hostelryes may survive along the Massachusetts Avenue - Main Street corridor, however commercial construction in this area, which likely resulted in extensive subsurface disturbance, indicates a low potential for significant archaeological recoveries.

(end)

CHIEFTAIN BOND
50% COTTON FIBER

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☒ A ☒ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureCommerceCommunity Planning & DevelopmentTransportation

Period of Significance

1793-1936

Significant Dates

1793; 1805;1890;1912

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hartwell & Richardson; McClare, C. Herbert;
Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Central Square National Register District, Cambridge, Massachusetts, meets criterion A of the National Register on the Local level. It is significant under the themes of commerce, community planning and development, and transportation, and retains integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship. It is significantly associated with the incorporation of Cambridge as a city, the establishment of critical regional transportation networks, and the growth of the city's main downtown commercial district. This district incorporates the entire City Hall National Register District, listed in 1982. The Central Square Historic District meets National Register Criterion Exception A in that the religious structures included in the district are integral to the district as a whole. It also meets Exception B in that the First Universalist Church, though moved, is integral to the district.

Central Square is located in the Cambridgeport section of the city and is one of four historic commercial centers in Cambridge (the others being Harvard Square, Porter Square, and Cambridge Street). It is the city's municipal core and its only traditional "downtown." Historically the commercial and retail core of the Cambridgeport neighborhood, Central Square's development history is tied to that of Cambridgeport in general. At the broadest level, Cambridgeport's prominence extends from 1793, the date of the opening of the West Boston Bridge, which expedited connections from the west to Boston and opened Cambridgeport to development, to 1948, when proposals for construction of an inner belt highway around Boston, which would have obliterated much of Cambridgeport and Central Square, were introduced.

Within the Central Square district itself, more specific periods of significance for each of the district's themes are identified as follows. In the area of transportation, several specific dates are significant: 1793 (the opening of the West Boston Bridge), 1805 (federal declaration of Cambridgeport as a port of entry), 1853 (introduction of the Grand Junction Railroad), 1890

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 32 acres

UTM References

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The district is comprised of buildings of a similar nature. Buildings outside the district have lost integrity through alteration, or demolition or are not within the period of significance.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By S. J. Zimmerman, Preservation Planner, Cambridge with

name/title Betsy Friedberg, NR Director, MHC

organization Massachusetts Historical Commission date October 1989

street & number 80 boylston Street telephone 617 - 727- 8470

city or town Boston state MA zip code 02116

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 8 Page 1

(opening of the Harvard Bridge), and 1912 (completion of the subway). For its role in community development, Central Square is most important as the seat of municipal government. In that area, Central Square is significant from 1846 to the present. However, a cutoff date of 1933 (construction of Post Office and Police Headquarters) defines the historic period of significance for community development. Under community development, it is also significant as a center for several major institutions, among them the Post Office, the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, and three local churches. Under the theme of commerce, a brief episode early in the 19th century and a sustained period in the late 19th through 20th century are significant. Between 1793 and 1805, hopes for commercial success in Cambridgeport ran high and several taverns and stores were established along the Main Street-Massachusetts Avenue corridor at Lafayette Square. But the Embargoes of 1807 and 1809 and the War of 1812 squelched the plans of the Port's speculators. Until the arrival of the railroad in 1853, commerce was slow to gain ground. However, the economy of the Cambridgeport area grew steadily once industry settled there. From 1867 through 1948, Central Square's role in local commerce was critical. In 1948, proposals were made to build an inner belt highway through the neighborhood. This move mirrored a downturn in Central Square's fortunes as the region's economy shifted away from the old central downtown and towards the auto-oriented outlying suburbs.

Central Square has been an important commercial area for the Cambridgeport area from the 1840s to the present, but its leadership in citywide commerce lasted roughly from 1867 to 1912. The square achieved much of its present appearance by 1936, when the last pre-War commercial construction took place.

Transportation

The completion of the West Boston Bridge in 1793 marked an important date for Central Square. The bridge, the first on a new location between Boston and Cambridge since 1656, opened a more convenient route to Boston, shortening that connection by some three miles. Termination of the Cambridge and Concord Turnpike (1803; now Broadway) and Middlesex Turnpike (1805; now Hampshire Street) at the West Boston Bridge reinforced the importance of the bridge as a conduit for agricultural goods from western Massachusetts to the markets and port of Boston. Other roads laid out for access to the West Boston Bridge and linking Central Square to that location included Main Street (1793; originally a causeway across the marshes to the bridge), River Street (1810) and Western Avenue (1824). Today, the Longfellow Bridge (1900-1906; NR, Charles River Basin, 1978) occupies the site of the earlier bridge.

The construction of the Grand Junction Railroad in 1853 across cheap marshland south of Central Square precipitated the second major stage in the area's development. The railroad embankment allowed for the filling of

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 8 Page 2

Cambridgeport's tidal marshes for industrial construction and provided transportation for raw and finished goods. Filled land, nearby industry, and a growing immigrant population stimulated residential construction in Cambridgeport and caused most of the peninsula south of Central Square to be built up by the end of the 19th century. The railroad established a manufacturing economy for Cambridgeport that sustained the area and Central Square well into the 20th century. As one byproduct of the railroad's presence, a large and populous residential neighborhood of laborers dependent on Central Square markets grew up in Cambridgeport.

In the period from 1887 to 1910, efforts to bridge the Charles at Massachusetts Avenue, dam the river, and create a freshwater basin with a riverfront esplanade had their effect on Central Square and Cambridgeport transportation. When the Harvard Bridge (1890), Charles River Dam, Basin, and Embankment (1910), and construction of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1912) were completed, Cambridgeport had acquired another focal point for settlement. As a result of these efforts, Massachusetts Avenue (which, from Lafayette to Harvard Squares, had been known as Main Street before 1894) was extended east to the Harvard Bridge and settlement followed, first with apartment blocks (such as the Georgian Revival Lamson Building, 1907, C. Herbert McClare) and later with commercial and institutional buildings. This additional settlement focus reinforced Central Square's position as the neighborhood's retail and commercial core.

In 1912, the fourth major transportation-related event, the completion of a rapid-transit subway system to Boston, took place. The route of the subway from the Longfellow Bridge, west along Main Street to Massachusetts Avenue to Harvard Square, followed Cambridge's oldest "mass transit" route to Boston, first set when regular omnibus service over the West Boston Bridge began in 1793. Later, horsecars and then street railways passing through and stopping at Central Square provided a steady stream of customers for the goods and services offered there.

By 1912, then, Central Square sat in the midst of a thriving historic transportation network serving residential, commercial, and industrial traffic in Cambridgeport. Massachusetts Avenue at Central Square accommodated four lanes of traffic and was 103 feet wide from Columbia to Pleasant Street, wider than all but three streets in the city. The street pattern of Massachusetts Avenue at Central Square, with major historic arteries angling off to the southwest at Western Avenue and River Street and to the northeast at Main Street, directly reflects a critical element in Cambridge's history, the presence of the West Boston Bridge.

The Main Street-Massachusetts Avenue corridor is one of the city's most important through routes, used over two hundred years for freight and general

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 8 Page 3

traffic as well as for omnibus, horsecar, street railway, and subway transportation. Ever since regular public transportation was established along the corridor, Central Square has been the major stopping point.

As a transportation corridor to Boston, Massachusetts Avenue-Main Street (1793) is pre-dated only by J. F. Kennedy Street, formerly Boylston Street in Harvard Square, the route to the city's first bridge to Boston, built in 1662. The corridor's supremacy was brief but the ten-year jump it had on the next road laid through to the West Boston Bridge (Concord-Cambridge Turnpike, 1803) gave Massachusetts Avenue-Main Street an important headstart in developing transportation-related services. One gains a sense of the critical economic value of these early transportation routes linked to Boston bridgeheads by considering the fierce rivalry of other companies to lay competing roads to their bridges. The most notable of several rival routes was Cambridge Street, whose platting was sponsored by the Lechmere Point Bridge (1809) proprietors. Led by East Cambridge real estate mogul and speculator, Andrew Craigie, the Lechmere Point Bridge proprietors waged a dogged battle with the West Boston Bridge proprietors over street construction and location for eight years, with the final outcome in 1813 requiring action both from the Massachusetts Legislature and the Supreme Judicial Court.

Commerce

Under the theme of commerce, Central Square briefly enjoyed prosperity at the turn of the 19th century, between the opening of the West Boston Bridge in 1793 and the first of the Jeffersonian Embargoes in 1807. Sustained growth in Central Square did not occur until after 1853, when the railroad and the subsequent industrialization of Cambridgeport ensured a stable market for Central Square commerce. Central Square remained a major commercial center for the city until the 1950s. For purposes of this nomination, the period of commercial significance extends to 1936, the date of construction of the last of Central Square's one-story storefronts (413-415 Massachusetts Avenue).

During the first brief period of commercial success in Central Square, a hay scale, blacksmith shops, warehouses, and at least seven taverns and hostleries were established along the Massachusetts Avenue-Main Street corridor. The only surviving buildings of this first period of commercial development are Dana (or South) Row (452-458 Massachusetts Avenue), built in 1806, the Dowse Building (653-655 Massachusetts Avenue), built in 1814, and the Syrian Orthodox Church (8 Inman Street, 1822), originally the First Universalist Church.

Dana Row survives as a fragment, half its original length but still easily recognizable: it is of brick construction, four bays in length and three stories tall with the hipped roof, party wall chimney, and narrow window

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MA

Section number 8 Page 4

openings that are characteristic of early 19th-century rowhouses. Dana Row is important as a building type, being the earliest known example of the rowhouse form in Central Square, and for its brick construction. Furthermore, Dana Row was built by Judge Frances Dana, a major landowner and speculator in Cambridgeport and Mid Cambridge in the early 19th century.

The Dowse Building, originally one of the city's finest three-story Federal mansions, has had several major alterations and retains very little architectural integrity. Though handsomely remodeled in the Italianate style in 1854 when it became a commercial building, the Dowse Building was sadly diminished through 20th century alterations. The Syrian Orthodox Church is of great importance as the second oldest of the city's churches. Built in 1822 for the First Universalist Society, the church was altered twice in the 19th century but retains much of its integrity and is critical to Central Square's development. It was the centerpiece of Lafayette Square, the earliest settled section of the Square. The only other reflection of the first period of Central Square settlement is its street pattern.

In 1854 (see H. F. Walling map), some seventy frame and brick buildings lined Massachusetts Avenue. Most fronted directly on the street, but gaps for side yards and vacant lots remained. The businesses active in Central Square at that time were small retail operations, selling dry goods, provisions, drugs, boots, shoes, and clothing. The presence of several offices for express companies (movers and freight deliverers) testifies to the importance of Central Square as a transportation node, while the number of lawyers with offices in the Square hints at its later significance as a center for professionals in the city. Also prevalent in Central Square were painters and paper hangers; in later decades, the number of building tradesmen and suppliers would increase through the turn of the century and then decline.

Buildings built expressly for commercial use began to appear in Central Square in the 1850s. One of the finest was the Douglas Block (463-467 Massachusetts Avenue; built 1849, demolished 1974), a three-story brick building with end wall parapets containing chimneys, and ground floor storefronts. The upper floors of the Douglas Block contained professional offices for real estate and insurance brokers and lawyers. However, many Central Square buildings remained in mixed commercial/residential use until the 1870s, including Dana Row, home of a Boston auctioneer and a local painter.

A few fragments of the Square's mid-19th century buildings survive, but most have been greatly altered. The best preserved is the brick building at 684-688 Massachusetts Avenue. Built in 1869 for Daniel Chamberlain's hardware store, the building is the only Second Empire-style block surviving in Central Square. Other mid-19th century examples include 512, 567-569, 722-724, and 728-730 Massachusetts Avenue (all noncontributing early frame or brick commercial blocks that have been significantly altered).

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 8 Page 5

By 1877 (see Franklin View Company bird's-eye map), few gaps in the streetscape along Massachusetts Avenue remained, especially along the north side. A concentration of professional offices, which remain a staple of Central Square commerce to this day, were built in the 1870s and 1880s on the blocks between Norfolk and Temple Streets. In these buildings were located over half of the city's insurance brokers, real estate agents, photographers, and architects. Four of the city's ten banks stood in Central Square. These included the city's oldest bank, the First Cambridge Bank, founded in 1826 and reorganized in 1865 as the Cambridgeport Bank. A number of other specialty goods and services were offered in Central Square. The city's oldest newspaper, the Cambridge Chronicle, was established in Central Square in 1846. Offices for the newspaper are still maintained in Central Square.

The bulk of Central Square's buildings were constructed between 1870 and 1930, including all of its most distinguished structures. In this period, too, a shift in the commercial base of Central Square took place: the businesses operating in Central Square in the 1870s, 1880s, and 1890s reflected a very broad range, from light manufacturing to building trades and supplies to retail goods and professional services in medicine, law, real estate, and insurance. By 1930, significant components of Central Square business had moved elsewhere (medical doctors, for example, as well as contractors, masons, and others associated with the building trade). As in the early days of its commercial history in the 1840s and 1850s, business in the Square again focused on retail goods (clothing, food, and sundries) for the Cambridgeport neighborhood. Among professionals, dentists and insurance agents predominated. Banks, furniture stores, and national chain stores were the major businesses serving a citywide clientele.

Throughout, Central and Harvard Squares remained the only exclusively commercial areas of the city. The other two commercial areas of Cambridge were Cambridge Street and Massachusetts Avenue in North Cambridge, both of which developed as attenuated, linear commercial strips. In contrast to the Squares (in which a dense concentration of closely set, multi-story office blocks clearly dominated), the commercial strips contained a mix of residential and commercial uses. Domestic structures and mixed use blocks (with stores on the ground floor and flats above) intermingled on Cambridge Street and in North Cambridge. Only Harvard and Central Squares presented an urban-scaled concentration of commercial architecture.

The most architecturally distinguished commercial block in Central Square is the Odd Fellows' Building (1884, Hartwell and Richardson; NR 1982), an outstanding example of Queen Anne design constructed of pressed brick with fine terracotta detailing. The building combined meeting halls for the Odd Fellows fraternal organization on the second and third floors with ground-floor retail space. More typical of late 19th century Central Square

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MA

Section number 8 Page 6

commercial blocks were the Grant Building (1873, demolished 1967), a three-story Victorian Gothic block, and the Hyde Block (1868, demolished 1950), a four-story Italianate block: both were bulky brick buildings whose workmanlike design incorporated ground-floor retail and upper-floor office space.

The Cambridge Mutual Fire Insurance Company building (763 Massachusetts Avenue) is the only major 19th century office building surviving in the Square. The headquarters of the Company as well as a number of other professional offices were located in the building. Another smaller office block of the period is the two-story brick block at 643 Massachusetts Avenue, built in 1880. It retains its original appearance and materials on the upper floor. Originally, the right-hand storefronts contained the Cambridge Post Office, while Ricker and Company, an undertaker, occupied the left side. Offices above housed a real estate and insurance agent and a dentist. The paucity of early office buildings surviving in Central Square is a reflection of the dramatic shift in the early 20th century to ground-floor retail and modest professional upper-floor office space as the main commercial activity.

The major group of buildings of this period to survive are those with ground-floor retail and flats above. Historically, these mixed-use retail/residential blocks have occupied the Square's periphery, at Lafayette Square and west of City Hall. The largest surviving concentration stands at the east end of the Square, in the vicinity of Lafayette Square. Among these structures, the finest is the Kennedy Building (1890, George Fogerty; DOE 1987), but other well-preserved mixed-use blocks include 893-907 Main Street (1870-1871), one of Cambridge's earliest blocks of flats, and 453-457 Massachusetts Avenue (1885). Another distinguished apartment block with ground-floor storefronts is The Longfellow, 492-498 Massachusetts Avenue (1894, C. Herbert McClare). A Sullivanesque design in yellow Roman brick, The Longfellow was designed by one of Cambridge's most prolific local architects. Architects Fogerty and McClare both maintained offices in Central Square.

After 1900, and especially after 1912, when the subway was completed, a shift from four- and five-story office blocks with ground-floor retail to more modest one-, two- and three-story buildings took place. This architectural change reflects the economic change that occurred as transportation improvements brought Cambridge residents into easy reach of Boston markets. The Depression solidified this shift: as rents for upper-floor offices and flats declined, several buildings were cut down, among them the Asa Morse Building of 1893 (579-587 Massachusetts Avenue) from which the top three floors were removed ca. 1935.

Where Central Square services and businesses once dominated the local market, they became increasingly dependent on neighborhood trade after 1912. The range of services offered in the Square narrowed: for most of the late 19th and

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 8 Page 7

early 20th century, Central Square was a well-integrated "downtown," with a full range of professional and technical services, as well as retail and specialized goods for the general population. Though still a major commercial center for the city, Central Square lost some of its "middle class respectability" and its diversity, as on the one hand, upper echelon professionals left the Square for downtown Boston offices, while on the other, construction tradesmen and light manufacturers, for example, moved to the outskirts of the city.

Nevertheless, several important commercial buildings were constructed in the early 20th century, of which the most outstanding are the Renaissance Revival style Cambridge Electric Light Building (1912, Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge) and the Neoclassical style Cambridge Savings Bank (1904, Chamberlain and Blackall). Other buildings were refurbished or otherwise remodeled. The building at 624-634 Massachusetts Avenue, built ca. 1880, was handsomely refaced with a green-veined slate sheathing in 1912. Another early building, the Prospect House hotel (ca. 1870) at 618 Massachusetts Avenue was remodeled with an elaborate white terracotta facade when it became an office block in 1908.

As the office market softened in the late 'teens, Central Square's few remaining 19th century frame buildings were replaced, not with four- and five-story blocks, but with lower buildings of one, two or three stories. The Watson House of ca. 1800 at 554 Massachusetts Avenue was replaced by a modest two-story concrete Neoclassical building. An exception was the block between Douglas and Norfolk Streets, on which three large four-story buildings were erected between 1916 and 1927. The buildings at 485 and 493-507 Massachusetts Avenue were built for a pair of furniture stores, Moller's and Kane's, and incorporated furniture showroom and warehouse space. The third, at 515-527 Massachusetts Avenue, was built for the Central Trust Company Bank and combined banking rooms, bank offices, and rental offices.

By the 1920s, the most common form of construction taking place was the one-story block of concrete storefronts. Often they were termed "taxpayers," because these modest speculative buildings were said to yield income sufficient to pay the property taxes until the market warranted more intensive development on the site. In Central Square, approximately a half dozen of these buildings were constructed between 1923 and 1936. The more substantial examples, like the Tudoresque building at 468-480 Massachusetts Avenue, were built as a continuous row while most of the others were infill buildings only one or two storefronts wide. The form was well suited to the small-scale retail businesses that proliferated in Central Square through the 1920s: liquor stores, jewelers, laundries, tailors, restaurants, and drugstores.

In 1926, the ten-story Central Square Building (Blackall, Clapp and

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 8 Page 8

Whittemore) opened at 672-678 Massachusetts Avenue. For almost 50 years, it was an architectural anomaly (Cambridge's only skyscraper) and at the time of its construction was a speculative venture of some risk. Through the Depression, there were many vacancies in the building, despite the fact that it drew many of Central Square's more prestigious tenants almost immediately (such as the local offices of the Boston Globe and Evening American newspapers, and of the John Hancock Life Insurance Company). The large size of the Central Square Building may have helped weaken the office market in Central Square further.

A final indication of the small-scale character of Central Square 20th-century retail (and another sign of its downtown character) was the presence of most of the city's five-and-ten-cent chain stores. National chains, such as Woolworth's, Kresge's, and W. T. Grant's, maintained stores in Central Square, as did the smaller regional chains such as Lincoln Stores and Corcoran's (founded in Central Square). Construction continued in Central Square into the 1930s, with new construction of one-story blocks at 413-415 Main Street, 464 and 524-528 Massachusetts Avenue, and refacing of the 1896 Manhattan Market building at 596-610 Massachusetts Avenue in 1938. After 1938 no substantial new construction took place in Central Square until 1951, when the Woolworth's Building (631-643 Massachusetts Avenue) was constructed. In 1966, the Commonwealth Gas Company building, a fifteen-story tower, was built at 675 Massachusetts Avenue. More recently, a new mixed-income housing block (Church Corner) has been built opposite the First Baptist Church at Magazine and Green Streets.

Community Development

Under the theme of community development, Central Square is most significant as the center of city government. The City Hall (1888; Longfellow, Alden and Harlow; NR 1982, City Hall HD) is located at the western edge of Central Square as is the the Central Post Office (1933, J. R. Leland Company with Charles R. Greco; NR 1986). Two other important municipal buildings are located in the district: the Cambridge Police Headquarters (1933, Putnam and Cox) at 5 Western Avenue and the Lafayette Square Fire Department (1893, Condone and Greco) at 378 Massachusetts Avenue.

Central Square first established itself as a center for local government in the 1830s, when an area just north of Central Square was acquired for the purpose of locating town buildings there. The "Eight Block Place," as it was known, occupied the area now defined by Harvard, Norfolk, Austin (now Bishop Allen Drive) and Prospect Streets. An almshouse was erected on the lot in 1818 and, in 1832, when facilities in Harvard Square proved inadequate for the growing size of town meetings, a townhouse designed by Asher Benjamin was also built there. The location of these municipal buildings outside the traditional

(continued)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetCentral Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 8 Page 9

center at Harvard Square, as well as the removal of the Middlesex County Courthouse from Harvard Square to East Cambridge in 1816, precipitated bitter competition among Old Cambridge residents and their rivals in East Cambridge and Cambridgeport, the town's expanding village centers. The issue was finally resolved in 1846 when the city, the fifth to be incorporated in Massachusetts, was established, thereby averting possible secession of the upstart villages. At that time, a de facto compromise between the three areas conceded the prestige of Harvard College and the historic Common to Old Cambridge, while East Cambridge and Cambridgeport were recognized as centers of county and municipal government, respectively.

When the 1832 townhouse burned in 1853, city government moved to rented quarters in the Cambridge Atheneum building in Central Square. The Atheneum, a fine brick Italianate building designed by Cambridge architect Henry Greenough (brother of the noted sculptor, Horatio), stood at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Pleasant Street. It served as the City Hall until 1890, when the present City Hall opposite the site was completed. The Atheneum, one of a handful of architecturally distinguished mid-19th century institutional buildings in Cambridge, was demolished in 1922 for a one-story block of stores. Municipal buildings in Central Square have included the Mason School (1835; demolished 1892) and the current Lafayette Square Firehouse (built on the site of the Mason School); the Central Square Fire Station (Engine #1) and Police Station (Station #2), a combined facility in a Second Empire brick structure built in 1887 and demolished in 1933 for the current Police Headquarters, an unusual academic modern structure at 5 Western Avenue; and, most importantly, City Hall.

The Cambridge City Hall is the most handsome of four public buildings made possible through the generosity of Frederick Hastings Rindge, a native son who made a fortune in real estate development in southern California. The city's most important public building is impressively sited, solidly built, and still serving its original purpose. It is a fine example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

Although they are less distinguished architecturally, both the Lafayette Square Fire Station and the Police Headquarters are prominent buildings sited on important visual axes in central Square. Architecturally and in their siting, they affirm the city's presence in Central Square.

Another important government institution in Cambridge is the Post Office. One for four post offices in the city, the Cambridgeport Post Office has always occupied a location on Massachusetts Avenue in Central Square. At first located at the corner of Norfolk Street, the Post Office migrated westward over time. It occupied three locations in Central Square--at 559, 611, and 647 Massachusetts Avenue--before settling on its present site at 760-770 Massachusetts Avenue. The present building is the central post office for the

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 8 Page 10

city, a fact reflected in its grandly scaled "federal Modern" design and imposing presence on the street. Set up and back on a platform above the street level, it relates well to the open space and setback of the City Hall building opposite, which is also sited on a raised platform, in the latter case created by a landscaped terrace.

Other private institutional buildings that contribute to Central Square's character as a city center are the First Baptist Church (1881, Hartwell and Richardson; NR 1975), an outstanding Queen Anne building significant also for the church's historical associations with the prominent site at River and Western Avenues that it has occupied since 1822; the Odd Fellows' Hall, one of two halls erected by the I.O.O.F. in Cambridge and the finest meeting hall in the city; the First Universalist Church (NR 1982, City Hall HD), built in 1822 at Lafayette Square and moved to Inman Street in 1888, when the congregation found Central Square's commercial character inappropriate to a religious institution; and the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, founded in 1883 and 1891, and both housed in imposing structures adjacent to City Hall. This concentration of institutional buildings, both private and public, testifies to Central Square's importance as a city center and as the core of the Cambridgeport neighborhood.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Central Square Historic District include all properties that face onto Main Street and Massachusetts Avenue, the core of the district, as well as selected contiguous properties that relate either visually or historically to Central Square's historic location and development. The great majority of these buildings are in commercial use, although a significant component are institutional buildings. Boundaries generally follow the rear lot lines, but in some cases have been drawn to exclude parking lots, and are as shown on the attached map labelled "Central Square National Register District" and drawn at a scale of 1":100'.

The district is bounded on the north by parking lots and a late 19th-century working class residential neighborhood; on the west by an area of scattered turn of the century apartments with several recent mid-rise office blocks interspersed; on the south by the Cambridgeport residential neighborhood, an area of single- and multiple-family houses built primarily between 1840 and 1900; on the southeast by vacant land once in industrial use and now being redeveloped by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a research park; and on the northeast by early 20th century factories and a 1930s housing project along Main Street.

Central Square is irregular in appearance and contains an eclectic collection of one- to five-story buildings, punctuated by a pair of high-rise towers at

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MASection number 8 Page 11

the intersection of Prospect Street and Massachusetts Avenue. Modern signage and new construction add to the uneven character of the area. Unifying influences are the continuous building wall out to the sidewalk and plate glass storefronts lining the street. The only exception to this is at the City Hall and Post Office, where the buildings are set back from the street, emphasizing their monumental presence in the Square.

The proposed district contains nine buildings of critical architectural importance, all of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places either individually or in the City Hall Historic District. These are the Cambridge City Hall (795 Massachusetts Avenue), the Cambridge Mutual Fire Insurance Company building (763 Massachusetts Avenue), the Central Square Post Office (770 Massachusetts Avenue), the Kennedy Building (430-442 Massachusetts Avenue), and the First Baptist Church (5 Magazine Street). In addition to these landmark buildings, there are several other locally important buildings in Central Square, including Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (863 Massachusetts Avenue), the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Association buildings (820-830 Massachusetts Avenue and 7 Temple Street), the Syrian Orthodox Catholic Church (8 Inman Street), the Central Square Building (672 Massachusetts Avenue), the Cambridgeport Savings Bank Building (685-697 Massachusetts Avenue), Prospect House (614-620 Massachusetts Avenue), the Chamberlain-Hyde Block (684-688 Massachusetts Avenue), the Lafayette Square Fire Station (378 Massachusetts Avenue), and the Police Headquarters (5 Western Avenue). All of these buildings are set in an environment of background buildings that are in general markedly less distinguished architecturally, but that provide an historical context of commercial and municipal development over a 131-year period from 1807 to 1938.

(end)

CHIEFTAIN BOND
50% COTTON FIBER

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MA

Section number 9 Page 1

Previously Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, 1982; 82-1932
Cambridge Mutual Fire Insurance Company Building, 763 Massachusetts Avenue,
1982;
Syrian Orthodox Church of Saint Mary (First Universalist Church), 8 Inman
Street, 1982;
Cambridge Young Women's Christian Association, 7 Temple Street, 1982;
Cambridge Electric Light Building, 719 Massachusetts Avenue, 1982;
The Kennedy, 430-442 Massachusetts Avenue, DOE 1987;
Odd Fellow's Lodge/Friendship Lodge, 536 Massachusetts Avenue, 1982; 82-1967
First Baptist Church, 5 Magazine Street, 1975; 75-249
Central Square Post Office, 770 Massachusetts Avenue, 1986. 86 1343

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 **Page** 1

Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MA

UTM Coordinates

A	19	326660	4692500
B	19	327180	4692020
C	19	327080	4691960
D	19	327000	4691940
E	19	326680	4692200
F	19	326640	4692120
G	19	326540	4692280
H	19	326380	4692460
I	19	326440	4692520
J	19	326580	4692500

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Central Square Historic District
Cambridge, MA

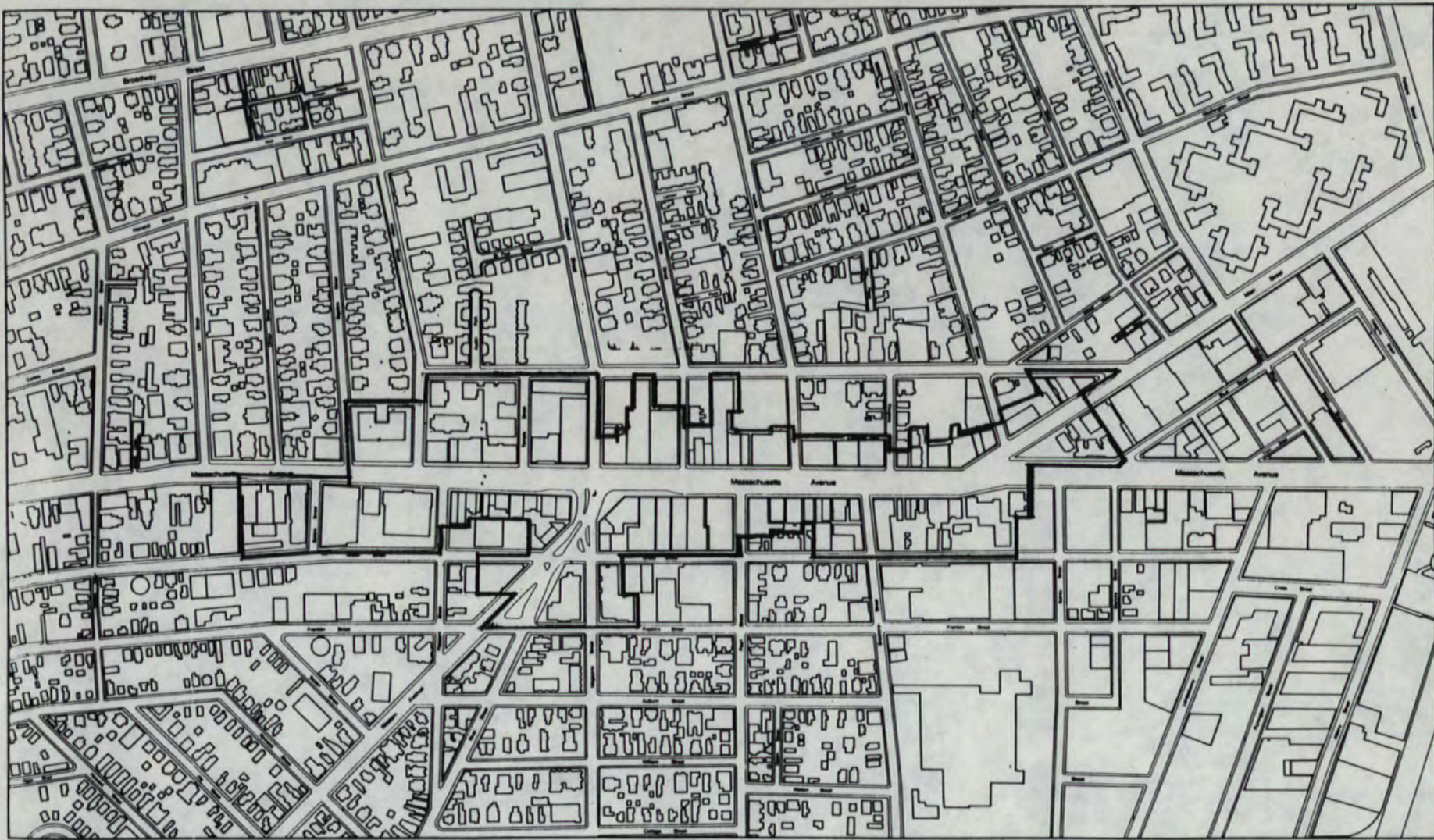
Section number 10 Page 2

Boundary Description

The district is bounded on the north by parking lots and a late 19th century working class residential neighborhood; on the west by an area of scattered turn of the century apartments with several recent mid-rise office blocks interspersed; on the south by the Cambridgeport residential neighborhood; on the southeast by vacant land once industrial but now being redeveloped as a research park; and on the northeast by early 20th century factories and a 1930s housing project.

Central Square is irregular in appearance and contains an eclectic collection of one to five story buildings. Unifying influences are the continuous building wall out to the sidewalk and plate glass storefronts.

EAGLE-A
Trojan Bond
25% COTTON FIBER



January 1986
Revised May 1987

City of Cambridge
CENTRAL SQUARE ACTION PLAN
Central Square Economic Development Subcommittee



0 100 200
FEET

Prepared by: Cambridge Community Development Department

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000128

Date Listed: 03/02/90

Central Square Historic District
Property Name

Middlesex
County

MA
State

Cambridge MRA
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Beth Savage
Signature of the Keeper

3/2/90
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3: Classification--Category of Property

The property is classified appropriately as a district, not as building(s) and structure, as indicated.

Section 8: Area(s) of Significance

Architecture was inadvertently indicated as an applicable area of significance; however, criterion C was not indicated and architecture was not justified in the text of the statement of significance.

This information was confirmed with Ann Tait, MASHPO, by telephone.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Central Square Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE Cambridge MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 1/16/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/01/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/17/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/02/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000128

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

XACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/2/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Locally significant district
reflects themes of commerce, transportation,
and community development by serving
as Cambridge's municipal core and
"downtown."*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 03-02-90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y/N)

CLASSIFICATION

 count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

 historic current

DESCRIPTION

 architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

 acreage verbal boundary description
 UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

 sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____



863 - 541 Massachusetts Avenue

Central Square HD

Cambridge MA

C.M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

view NE #1



751 - 665 Massachusetts Avenue

Central Square HD

Cambridge, MA

C. M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

view NE #2



527- 453 Massachusetts Avenue
Central Square HD

Cambridge MA

C. M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

VIEW NE # 3



429-665 Massachusetts Avenue
Central Square HD
Cambridge MA

C.M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission
view NW #4



415 - 401 Massachusetts Avenue; 907 - 853 Main Street
Central Square HD
Cambridge MA

C. M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

view NE #5



424 - 566 Massachusetts Avenue
Central Square Hb
Cambridge MA

C. M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

View SW #6



534-674 Massachusetts Avenue
Central Square AD

Cambridge MA

C.M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

view SW #7



624 - 750 Massachusetts Avenue
Central Square Hb
Cambridge MA

C. M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

view SW #8



593-605 Massachusetts Avenue
Central Square Hb

Cambridge MA

C.M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

view NE #9



Central Square Building 678 Mass. Ave.

Central Square HD

Cambridge MA

C.M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

View W #10

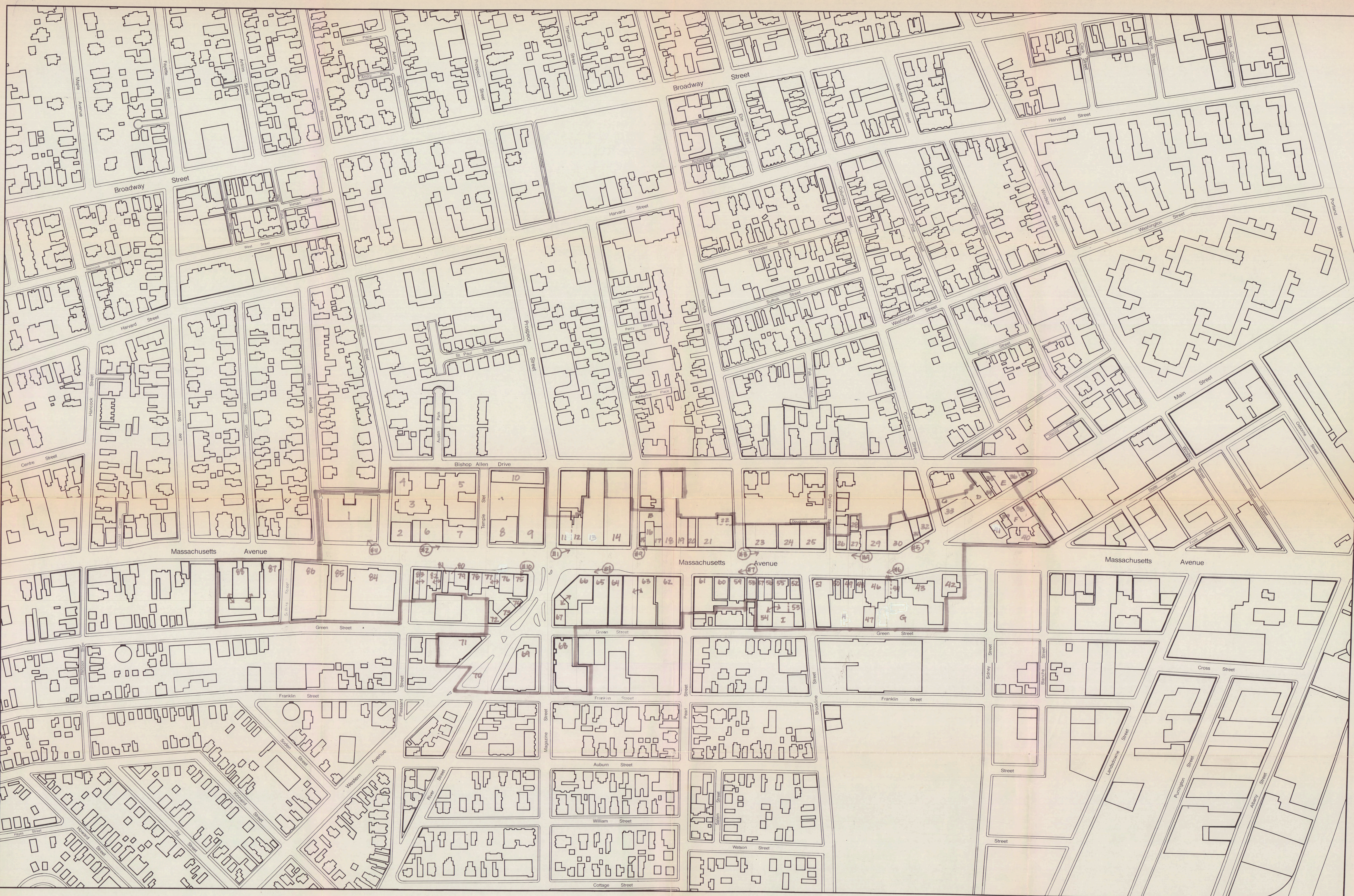


Cambridge City Hall, 795 Mass. Ave.
Central Square H/D
Cambridge MA

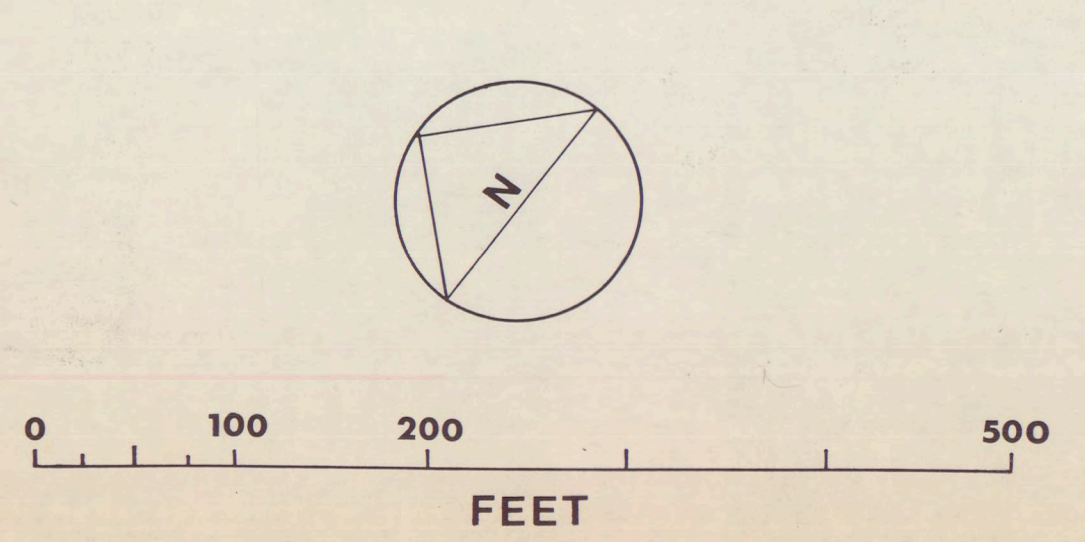
C.M. Sullivan August 1989

Cambridge Historical Commission

view N #11



City of Cambridge
CENTRAL SQUARE ACTION PLAN
Central Square Economic Development Subcommittee

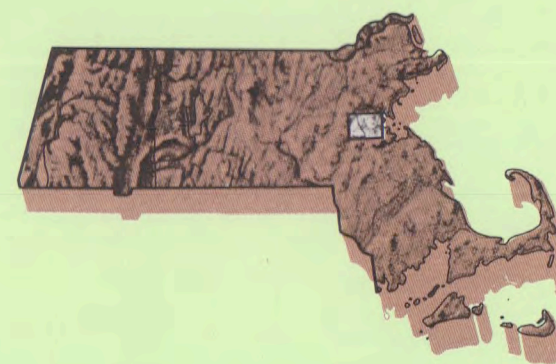


January 1986
Revised May 1987
CENTRAL SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Cambridge, ma.
Prepared by: Cambridge Community Development Department

7.5 X 15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



1:25 000-scale *metric*
topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE
SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

1987

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Massachusetts Department
of Public Works

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of
Massachusetts agencies
Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1978. Field checked 1979. Map edited 1987

Supersedes Newton and Boston South 1:25,000-scale maps dated 1970

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS charts 13270 and 13272 (1982). This information is not intended for naviga

Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal
Transverse Mercator, zone 19
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate
system, mainland zone

1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
42 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS
DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
SHORELINE. SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE
OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.9 METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARD

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS	
Meters	Feet			1	2
1	3.2808	UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1983 magnetic declination (M) at center of map Diagram is approximate		4	5
2	6.5617			6	7
3	9.8425				
4	13.1234				
5	16.4042				
6	19.6850				
7	22.9659				
8	26.2467	UTM grid convergence (GN) and 1983 magnetic declination (M) at center of map Diagram is approximate		1	Maynard
9	29.5276			2	Boston North
10	32.8084			3	Lynn
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808				4	Frammingham
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048				5	Hull
				6	Medfield
				7	Norwood
				8	Weymouth

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbol

Primary highway, hard surface	
Secondary highway, hard surface	
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	
Unimproved road; trail	
Road; surface material: U.S. 2	
Railroad; standard gauge; narrow gauge	
Bridge, drawbridge	
Canal, levee, overpass, underpass	
Build-up was only one-story building shown	
House, barn; church; school; large building shown	
Boundary	
National, with monument	
State	
County, parish	
City township, precinct, district	
Incorporated city, village, town	
National or State reservation; small park	
Land grant with monument; found section corner	
U.S. public lands reserve; range, township, section	
Range, township, section line; location approximate	
Force or field line	
Power transmission line, located tower	
Dam, with lock	
Canalway, grave	
Canal; water course; any U.S. location movement	
Windmill; water well; spring	
Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave	
Control: horizontal station; vertical; spot; elevation	
Contours: index, intermediate; supplementary; depression	
Distinguished surface: strip mine, levee, and sand	
Slopes; depth curve	
Perennial lake and stream, intermittent lake and stream	
Rapids, large and small	
Submerged marsh; marsh, swamp	
Shrub; water to controlled inundation; woodland	
Sand; mangrove	
Richard-Wagner	

A pamphlet describing topographic maps is available on request

WASO-11
Revised (7-82)

(Indicate routing order by number; strike out office when cleared)

(* - Denotes L Street Location) (** - Denotes Pension Building Location)



**MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State**

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

September 27, 1982

President and Fellows of Harvard College
Derek Bok, President
University Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

ATTENTION: Joseph B. Wyatt

Dear President Bok:

The properties you own (see attached list) in the Cambridge Multiple Resource Area will be reconsidered by the State Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the Federal Government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Enclosed is a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated.

Listing in the National Register provides the following benefits to historic properties:

- Consideration in the planning for federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment on projects affecting such properties.
- Eligibility for Federal tax benefits. If a property is listed in the National Register, certain tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1976 as amended by the Revenue Act of 1978 and the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, and the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, contain provisions intended to encourage the preservation of depreciable historic structures by allowing favorable tax treatments for rehabilitation, and to discourage destruction of historic buildings by eliminating certain Federal tax provisions for demolition of historic structures. Beginning January 1, 1982, the Economic Recovery Act replaces the rehabilitation tax incentives available under prior law with a 25% investment tax credit for rehabilitations of certain historic commercial, industrial and residential rental buildings. This can be combined with a 15 year cost recovery period for the adjusted basis of the historic building. Historic buildings with certified rehabilitations receive additional tax savings because they are exempt from any requirement to reduce the basis of the building by the amount of credit.

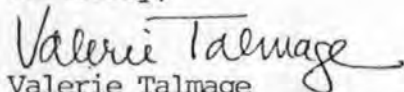
- The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 includes provisions regarding charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures.
- Consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located, in accord with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977.
- Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available.

Owners of private properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places must be given an opportunity to concur in or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 and Federal regulations 36CFR Part 60. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing is required to submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property, as appropriate, and objects to the listing. If a majority of the owners objects to listing the district will not be listed. Each owner or partial owner of private property in a district has one vote regardless of how many properties or what part of one property that party owns. If the district cannot be listed because a majority of owners objects prior to the submission of a nomination by the State, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for a determination of the eligibility of the district for inclusion in the National Register. If the district is then determined eligible for listing, although not formally listed, Federal agencies will be required to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect the property. Notarized objections may be submitted up to the date of the meeting; following the meeting they may be submitted directly to the Keeper of the National Register.

The Commission meeting will be held on November 10, 1982, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Officers Building, Hull Room, Charlestown Navy Yard. If you wish to comment on whether the property should be nominated to the National Register, please send your comments to this office by November 5, 1982.

A copy of the nomination will be on file in our office on October 6, 1982, and will be made available to you upon request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Valerie Talmage
Acting Executive Director
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

VT:mmd
Enclosure

cc: Charles Sullivan; Jerry Rogers, Keeper of the National Register; Jess Fardela, Ropes and Gray; Real Estate Dept., Harvard College



MASSACHUSETTS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Office of the Secretary of State

294 Washington Street
Boston, Massachusetts
02108
617-727-8470

MICHAEL JOSEPH CONNOLLY
Secretary of State

September 27, 1982

President and Fellows of Harvard College
Derek Bok, President
University Hall
Cambridge, MA 02138

ATTENTION: Joseph B. Wyatt

Dear President Bok:

The properties you own (see attached list) in the Cambridge Multiple Resource Area will be reconsidered by the State Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register is the Federal Government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Enclosed is a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated.

Listing in the National Register provides the following benefits to historic properties:

- Consideration in the planning for federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 provides that the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be given an opportunity to comment on projects affecting such properties.
- Eligibility for Federal tax benefits. If a property is listed in the National Register, certain tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1976 as amended by the Revenue Act of 1978 and the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, and the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, contain provisions intended to encourage the preservation of depreciable historic structures by allowing favorable tax treatments for rehabilitation, and to discourage destruction of historic buildings by eliminating certain Federal tax provisions for demolition of historic structures. Beginning January 1, 1982, the Economic Recovery Act replaces the rehabilitation tax incentives available under prior law with a 25% investment tax credit for rehabilitations of certain historic commercial, industrial and residential rental buildings. This can be combined with a 15 year cost recovery period for the adjusted basis of the historic building. Historic buildings with certified rehabilitations receive additional tax savings because they are exempt from any requirement to reduce the basis of the building by the amount of credit.

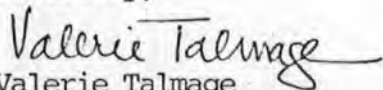
- The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 includes provisions regarding charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures.
- Consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located, in accord with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977.
- Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available.

Owners of private properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places must be given an opportunity to concur in or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 and Federal regulations 36CFR Part 60. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing is required to submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property, as appropriate, and objects to the listing. For a single privately owned property with one owner, the property will not be listed if the owner objects. In nominations with multiple ownership of a single property, the property will not be listed if a majority of the owners objects. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of what part of the property that party owns. If the property cannot be listed because the owner or a majority of owners objects prior to the submission of a nomination by the State, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for a determination of the eligibility of the property for inclusion in the National Register. If the property is then determined eligible for listing, although not formally listed, Federal agencies will be required to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect the property. Notarized objections may be submitted up to the date of the meeting; following the meeting they may be submitted directly to the Keeper of the National Register.

The Commission meeting will be held on November 10, 1982, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Officers Building, Hull Room, Charlestown Navy Yard. If you wish to comment on whether the property should be nominated to the National Register, please send your comments to this office by November 5, 1982.

A copy of the nomination will be on file in our office on October 6, 1982, and will be made available to you upon request. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Valerie Talmage
Acting Executive Director
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer
Massachusetts Historical Commission

VT:mmd
Enclosure

cc: Charles Sullivan; Jerry Rogers, Keeper of the National Register; Jess Fardela, Ropes and Gray; Real Estate Dept., Harvard College

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION OF NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, culture and engineering is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic value or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purpose, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE for the National Register. However, such properties WILL QUALIFY if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with an historic person or event; or
- C. a birthplace or grave of an historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- D. a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- G. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

HARVARD OWNED PROPERTIES TO BE RECONSIDERED BY
THE MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ON NOVEMBER 10, 1982

(numbers in parentheses are assessor's lot numbers)

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES:

1 Francis Ave. - Ebenezer Francis House	(145-36)
21 Kirkland St. - Tredwell-Sparks House	(144-8)
38 Kirkland St. - Joseph Lovering House	(143-4)
34 Kirkland St. - Luther Brooks House	(143-13)
61 Kirkland St. - Charles Eliot House	(146A-110)
16 Prescott St.	(136-11)
1587 Mass. Ave. - Gilbert Dexter House	(157-33)
1581-83 Mass. Ave. - Alden Keen House	(157-57)
19 Francis Ave. - Hyatt Durant House	(145-42)
14 Divinity Ave. - Divinity Hall	(145-44)
Oxford St. and Divinity Ave. - University Museum	(144-18)
25 Kirkland St. - Busch-Reisinger Museum	(144-22)
10 - 26 Everett St. - Harvard Graduate Center	(157-30)
1300-1316 Mass. Ave. - The Fairfax	(160-25, 26, 27)
17 South St. - Samuel Stedman House	(162-53)
69 Dunster St. - Augustus Wyeth House	(162-32)
60 Garden St. (AKA 57 Concord St.) - Harvard Observatory	(227-90)
122 Mt. Auburn St. - Craigie Arms (added at the request of Harvard University)	(165-38, 39, 40, 41, 42)
95 Irving St. - William James House (assessor's records indicate sale by Harvard University)	

DISTRICTS:

Harvard Yard National Register District (Extension)

480 Broadway	(136-2,3,4,27,36)
1341-1345 Mass. Ave.	(159-1)
1 - 9 Prescott St.	(136-26)

Old Cambridge National Register District

7 - 9 Appian Way	(170-35)
20 Elmwood Ave.	(240-2)
33 Elmwood Ave.	(246-9)

Harvard Houses National Register District

28 Holyoke St.	(161-1)
9 - 21 Holyoke Place	(161-4)
14 - 32 Mill St.	(161-77)
933-949 Memorial Drive	(131-65)
962-966 Memorial Drive	(163-39)
967-970 Memorial Drive	(163-40)
38 - 50 Mt. Auburn St.	(161-85)
52 - 60 Mt. Auburn St.	(161-81)
66 - 68 Mt. Auburn St.	(161-3)
61 Plympton St.	(161-83)
67 Plympton St.	(161-76)
96 - 110 Plympton St.	(161-73)
101 Plympton St.	(161-57)
20 South St.	(163-11)
107 Plympton St.	(161-58)

Winthrop Square National Register District

52-56 Dunster St.	(162-49)
51-55 Dunster St.	(162-7)
29-33 Holyoke St. (AKA 39 Winthrop St.)	(162-63)
78 Mt. Auburn St.	(162-11)
41 Winthrop St.	(162-14)
45 Winthrop St.	(162-50)

Maple Avenue Historic District

12-14 Maple Ave.	(113-65)
------------------	----------

Kirkland Place National Register District

9 Kirkland Place	(145-38)
------------------	----------

Cambridge Common National Register District (Extension)

35 Church St.	(169-10)
10 Farwell Pl.	(169-15)
11-13 Farwell Pl.	(169-22, 22A)
12 Farwell Pl.	(169-16)
14 - 16 Farwell Pl.	(169-17)
15 Farwell Pl.	(169-92)

Garfield Street National Register District

20 Garfield St.	(155-2)
34 Garfield St.	(155-4)
36 Garfield St.	(155-5)
44 Garfield St.	(155-6)
54 Garfield St.	(155-7)
58 Garfield St.	(155-8)

Gold Coast National Register District

9 - 11 Bow St.	(133-3)
13 - 23 Bow St.	(133-4)
25 - 29 Bow St.	(133-5)
31 - 45 Bow St.	(133-6)
47 - 57 Bow St.	(160-60)
63 Mt. Auburn St.	(160-30)
22 Plympton St.	(133-8)
28 Plympton St.	(133-7)



December 28, 1989

Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127

JAN 16 1990

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the following nominations:

Central Square Historic District, Main and Inman Streets, Central Square and Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge (Cambridgeport) (Middlesex County), Massachusetts;

Middleborough Waterworks, East Grove Street at Nemasket River and Wareham Street at Barden Hill Road, Middleborough (Plymouth County), Massachusetts.

The nominations have been voted eligible by the State Review Board and have been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. Owners were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30-75 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment. Comments received to date are attached to the nomination form.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Tait
Acting National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure:



In Area no.
Camb'port

Form no.
CPT
IIA1

1 Cambridge

ess 452-58 Massachusetts Avenue

a South Row

ent use commercial

ent owner on back

ription:

1806

ource deed records

Federal

itect unknown

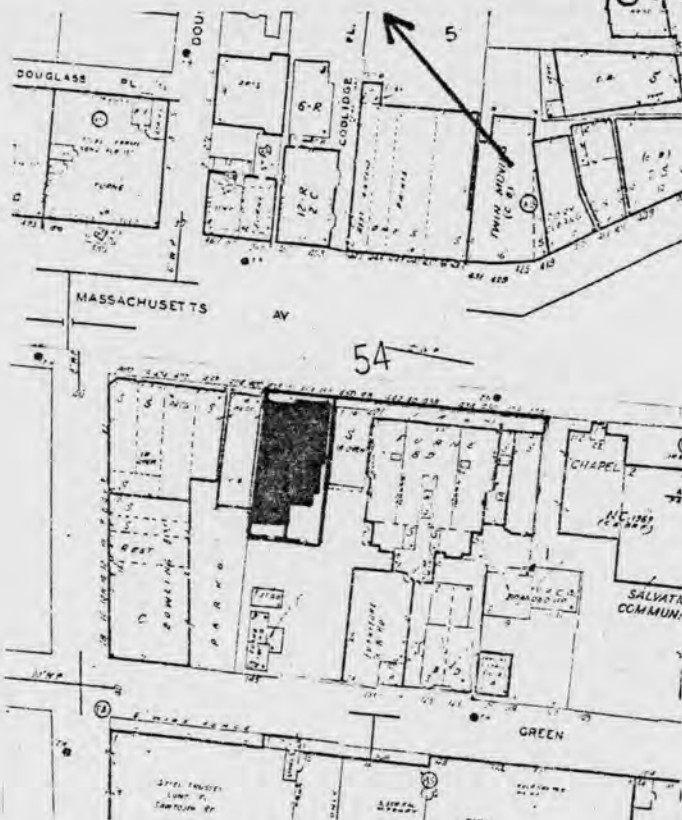
rior wall fabric brick - now stucco

ildings (describe) -----

r features three-story brick block



1094-13A



Assessor # 92-89
92-51

Altered Yes- remodel- Date numerous
ling times

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 190 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

8 feet

6. Recorded by Robert Rettig

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1969

UTM - BOSTON SOUTH

19/326920/4692070

7. Original owner (if known) Judge Francis Dana

Original use both residential and commercial

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates primarily commercial

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>XX</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)

South Row is an early Central Square commercial block, surviving in part. Originally extending to the corner of Brookline Street, this three-story Federal brick block had two hip-roofed end units and four narrower, gable-roofed rowhouse units in between. Built by Judge Francis Dana on part of his extensive Cambridgeport land-holdings, South Row was apparently used at an early date for residential as well as commercial purposes. This followed a common pattern of stores on the ground floor and living quarters above. The four right hand units were demolished in 1930. The remaining units have been considerably altered.

Current Owners: 452-456 Massachusetts: Moses and Max Katz,
217 Fuller Street
Brookline

458 Massachusetts : Vincent J. Marcellino, Jr.

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

NOV 14 1980