

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
MID CAMB.	MC II B 4

1. Town Cambridge

Address 21 Kirkland Street

Name Treadwell-Sparks House

Present use residential

Present owner Harvard University

3. Description:

Date 1838

Source deed records

Style Regency/Greek Revival

Architect William Saunders/builder

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) stable - now garage

Other features two-storied, with very wide pilasters on street facade

Altered No Date ----

Moved Yes Date 1968

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre ---

Approximate frontage 160'

Approximate distance of building from street 68'

6. Recorded by Robert Rettig

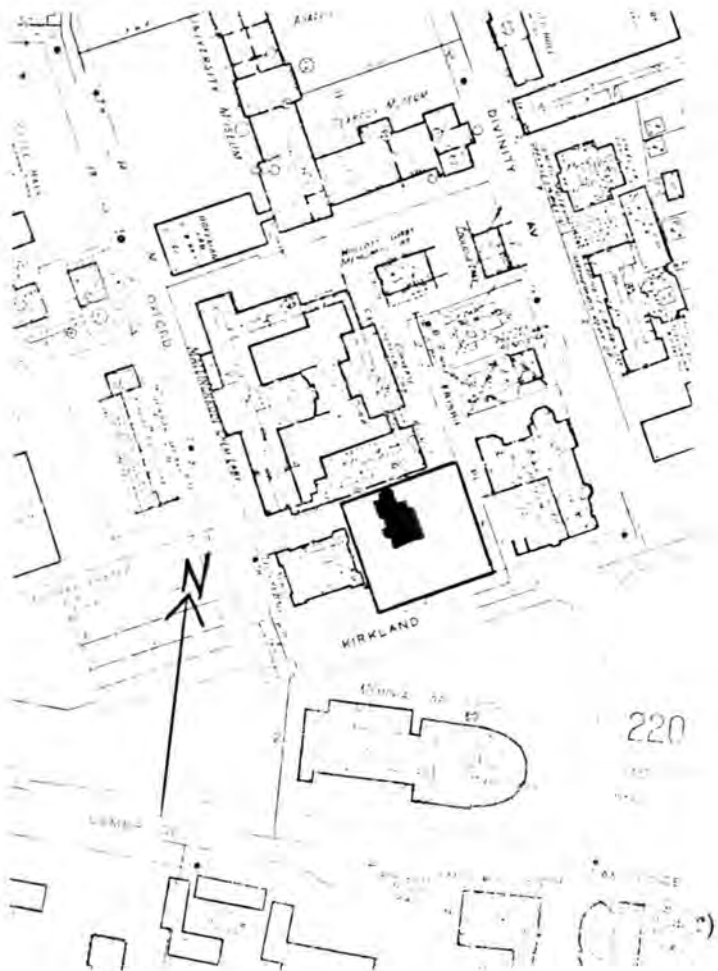
Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Dat 1968 NOV 14 1968

UTM - BOSTON NORTH
19/325830/4693560

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1097-5

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



ASSESSOR # 144-8

7. Original owner (if known) Daniel Treadwell

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	<u>Xx</u>	Religion	<u>Xx</u>
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	<u>XX</u>
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

This conservative wide-pilastered Regency/Greek Revival house was built in 1838 at the corner of Quincy and Kirkland Streets for Daniel Treadwell, inventor and Harvard professor. Historian Jared Sparks bought the house in 1847 and lived there while president of Harvard (1849-53). Subsequently owned by the New Church Theological School, the property passed in 1966 to Harvard University. The University moved the house and its stable (now a garage) to its present location. The building's pilastered end facade faces toward the street with the entrance facade facing the side of the lot, duplicating the original siting.

The preservation of the stable and accurate positioning of both buildings when they were moved approximately one hundred yards in 1968 mitigate the effects of this move. Despite the move, the building's architectural and historical associations make it worthy of recognition.

The Treadwell-Sparks House embodies the distinctive

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

characteristics of the Regency/Greek Revival style such as cubical form, flat linear surface treatment, and wide pilasters, and so meets criterion C. It was evaluated by the Cambridge survey as a local masterpiece.

Substantive Review
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

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

Working No. 11-14-80-2862
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 4/17/82
Action: ACCEPT
RETURN 6-10-82
REJECT

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

photos 1
maps _____

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Returned per agreement of MA. SHPO to
resubmit to State Review Board
Please explain what characteristics of
this building make it a "local masterpiece"

Recom. / Criteria Return
Reviewer Patrick Andrews
Discipline Historian
Date 6/10/82
see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UNIT References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Site _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Patrick Andrews

Signed *W.H. Brannon*

Date *6-10-82*

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

bridge | II B 4

USGS Map #25

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number 79-5

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation
to nearest cross streets and/or
geographical features. Indicate
all buildings between inventoried
property and nearest intersection.
Indicate north.

(See Attached Map)

Town Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge MRA

Address 21 Kirkland Street

Historic Name Treadwell-Sparks House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1838

Source tax records

Style Regency/Greek Revival

Architect William Saunders/builder

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings stable - now garage

Major alterations (with dates) None

Moved Yes Date 1901/68

Approx. acreage .0116 acres

Setting Surrounded by Harvard Academic
Buildings: Memorial Hall, Lowell
Lecture Hall, The Busch-Reisinger
Museum, and The Science Labs; set in
a large lawn.

Recorded by R. Rettig/T. Alduino

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1968/1985

UTM 19/325830/4693560
USGS Quad: Boston South

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

(See Attached Sheet)

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.)

(See Attached Sheet)

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

(See attached standard bibliography)

Specific References:

Report Four: Old Cambridge, p. 95.

- Rettig, Robert. "History of the Jared Sparks House". A paper on file at the Cambridge Historical Commission. January 15, 1968 (Typewritten).

Community: Cambridge, Mass. Cambridge MRA	Form No. M.C. II B 4
Property Name: Treadwell-Sparks House	

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

Architectural Significance

The Treadwell-Sparks House was built in an innovative cubical form with austere geometric details. It rises two stories from a granite foundation to a wood shingled, hip roof with tall, thin end wall chimneys. Its two main elevations (east and south) are flushboarded, enhancing the severity of the design. They are divided vertically by wide pilasters without capitals, and horizontally by a frieze and molded beltcourse which also serves as a heading to the second and first floor windows, respectively. The facade is a symmetrical three bays wide with a sidelight entry recessed into the second bay. Flanking first floor windows contain 6/9 sash while second floor windows contain 6/6. The south elevation, which faces Kirkland Street, is four bays wide (each slightly narrower than those of the south); windows with 6/6 sash are located in each bay at both stories. The secondary north and west elevations are clapboarded and asymmetrically treated ~~although~~ generally four bays in width.

The Treadwell-Sparks House is one of the finest Greek Revival style houses in Cambridge, and certainly one of its most innovative. It was one of the first houses in the city to employ a three bay facade and was both early and exceptionally severe in its interpretation of geometric, English Regency forms. Less than a dozen of these conservative broad-pilastered houses were built in Cambridge, mostly in the 1840's; the Sparks House is the earliest and most distinguished example. As such it is significant under Criterion C.

Historical Significance

The Treadwell-Sparks House was built in 1838 for Daniel Treadwell, inventor and Rumford Professor at Harvard, by Cambridge builder William Saunders at the corner of Quincy and Kirkland Streets. In 1847, Nathaniel Silsbee of Salem bought the property as a gift for his daughter, Mary Crowninshield Silsbee Sparks, wife of Jared Sparks. Jared Sparks (1789-1866) is the acknowledged first scholar of American history. He was also a minister and editor of the North American Review, from 1832 to 1829. He was appointed McLean Professor of Ancient and Modern History at Harvard in 1839 and was President from 1849 to 1853. Sparks lived in the house now at 21 Kirkland Street from 1847 until his death. His heirs sold the house to the New Church Theological School in 1889. In 1901, the school turned the house 90 degrees and moved it further south on its lot at 48 Quincy Street to make way for the Church of the New Jerusalem. Interior alterations were also made by the school during its long period of ownership (1889-1966). In 1966, Harvard acquired the property. Since the land was needed for the new Gund Hall, the house and barn were moved

Continued

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge, Mass. Cambridge MRA	Form No. M.C. II B 4
Property Name: Treadwell- Sparks House	

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

Historical Significance (cont'd)

in 1968 to 21 Kirkland Street and refurbished as the official residence of the Preacher of the University. On its new lot, the building was then positioned with its entrance to the driveway, duplicating the siting prior to the 1901 move.

As the principal residence of Jared Sparks during the most productive years of his life, the Treadwell-Sparks House is significant under Criterion B.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Cambridge, Mass.
Cambridge MRA

Form No:

Property Name: Cambridge Multiple
Resource Area

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

Standard Bibliography - Cambridge Multiple Resource
Nomination

Bunting, Bainbridge, and Floyd, Margaret H., ed., Harvard,
An Architectural History. Cambridge: The Belknap Press of
Harvard University, 1985

Cambridge Historical Commission, Survey of Architectural
History in Cambridge. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Report One: East Cambridge (1965)

Report Two: Mid Cambridge (1967)

Report Three: Cambridgeport (1971)

Report Four: Old Cambridge (1973)

Report Five: Northwest Cambridge (1977)

Cambridge Historical Society, Proceedings. Cambridge,
1906-present

Daughters of the American Revolution, Hannah Winthrop
Chapter, An Historical Guide to Cambridge. Cambridge, 1907

Gilman, A., ed., Cambridge of Eighteen Hundred and Ninety
Six. Cambridge: The Riverside Press, 1896

Paige, L.R., History of Cambridge. Boston: H.O Houghton and
Company, 1877

Paige, L.R.; Gozzaldi, M.I., ed., History of Cambridge
Supplement and Index. Cambridge: The Cambridge Historical
Society, 1930

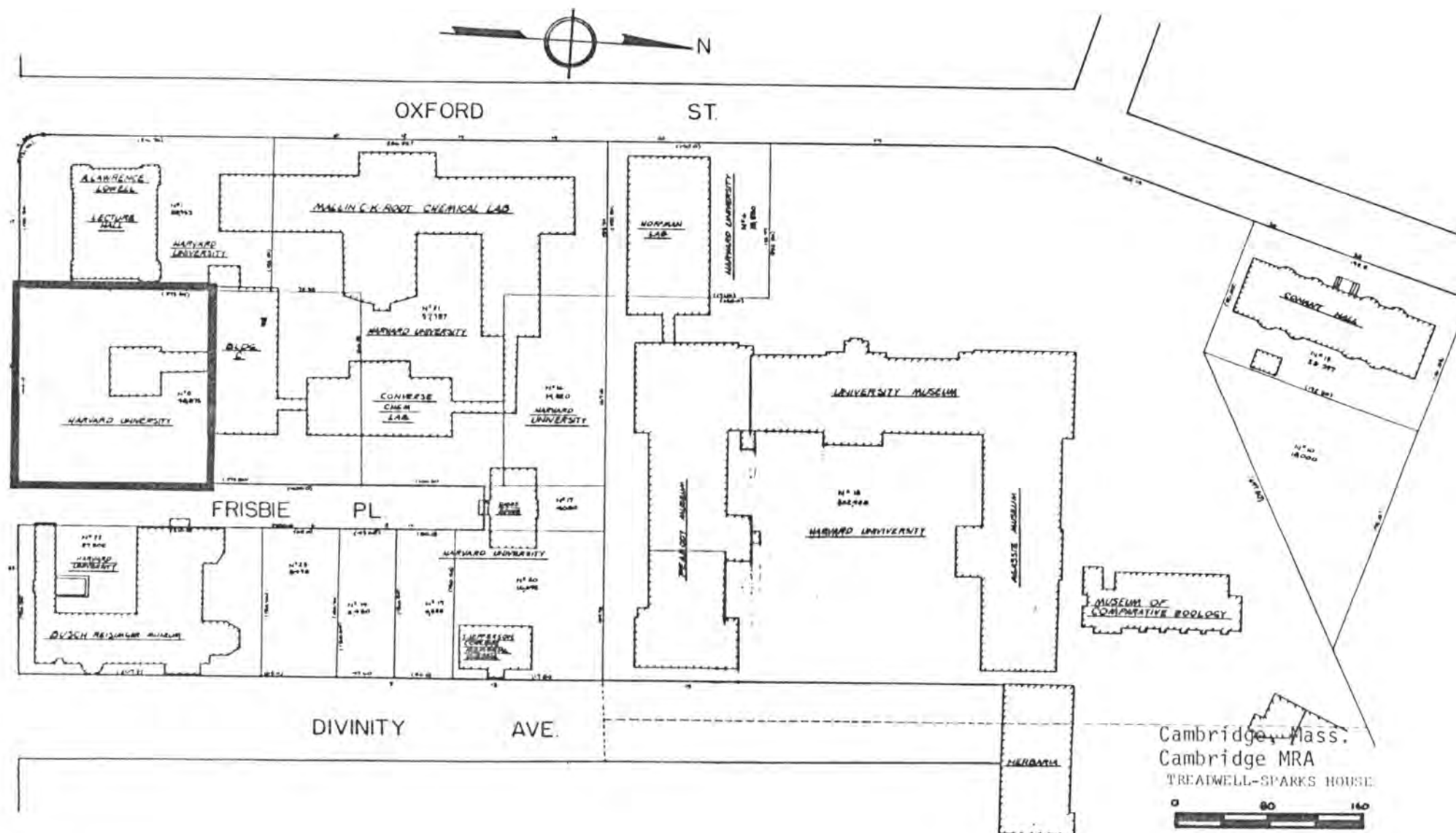
Rettig, R.B., Guide to Cambridge Architecture. Cambridge:
The MIT Press, 1969

Stillman, W.J., ed., Poetic Localities of Cambridge. Boston:
James R. Osgood and Company, 1876

Woods, R.A., and Kennedy, A.J.; Warner, S.B., ed., The Zone
of Emergence. Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1962

Zaitzevsky, C., with the advice of the Review Committee
members, The Harvard University Study of Historic and
Architectural Properties in the Environs of Cambridge,
(April 1983 - December 1984)

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 7 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

61. Valentine Soap Workers Cottages
(101 Pearl St.)

✓ Keeper

Robert L. Savage 6/30/83

Substantive Review

Attest

62. Opposition House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

63. Frost, Walter, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

64. Treadwell-Sparks House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Patrick Andrus 9/12/86

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
owner objection withdrawn

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

65. Francis, Ebenezer, House

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Attest

Harvard

66. Lovering, Joseph, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Patrick Andrus 9/12/86

owner objection withdrawn

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

67. Atwood, Ephiram, House

✓ Keeper

Robert L. Savage 6/30/83

Attest

68. Buildings at 104-106 Hancock St.

✓ Keeper

Robert L. Savage 6/30/83

Attest

69. Colburn, Sara Foster, House

Substantive Review Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

70. Brooks, Luther, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Patrick Andrus 9/12/86

owner objection withdrawn

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Attest

Beth L. Savage 9/12/86

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Substantive Review

Treadwell--Sparks House (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

JUL 30 1986

- ☒ resubmission *was DOE owner obj.*
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/86
Date Due: 8/28/86 - 9/13/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-12-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Reviewer's comments:

*Locally important for historic associations w/
productive life of scholar Jared Sparks
and as fine representative of Regency/
Greek Revival Style. Return comments
have been adequately addressed.*

Recom./Criteria Accept B+C
Reviewer Javise
Discipline Architectural History
Date 9/10/86
see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ excellent | ☐ deteriorated |
| ☐ good | ☐ ruins |
| ☐ fair | ☐ unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Treadwell-Sparks House
21 Kirkland Street

Cambridge MA, Ma 79-5

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275