

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.
C'Port

Form no.
CPT

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1103-27

1. Town Cambridge

Address 158 Auburn Street

Name Asa Ellis House

Present use residential

Present owner Catherine Babalas

3. Description:

Date 1805

Source deed records

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric composition siding

Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features five-bay facade

capped by a low-pitched hip roof.

Fanlight over entrance.

Altered Yes-minor Date ----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 50 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

8 feet

6. Recorded by Robert Rettig

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1969

UTM - BOSTON SOUTH

19/326620/4692040

NOV 14 1969

7. Original owner (if known) Asa Ellis

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residential

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

158 Auburn Street is a rare example of a frame Federal style house in Cambridgeport. It is one of the most appealing houses in the Cambridgeport neighborhood with its side entrance facing a flower garden. It still retains the rural village flavor of old Cambridgeport.

The house has a typical two-story, two-room center-hall plan with the hearth centered on the rear wall. Only one of the two original chimneys remains. The five-bay facade is capped by a low-pitched hip roof. Over the entrance is a fanlight with simple wood tracery.

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Ellis, ASA, 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 4/13/82

☐ REJECT

photos 1

maps _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

although a rare example of Federal style house in Cambridgeport, the property does not seem to have maintained significant integrity to justify N.R. listing. Please explain why this bldg. is individually eligible in light of the changes to the windows & covering with synthetic siding (the bldg. is noted as significant for being a frame house)

Recom./Criteria Return

Reviewer Braham arch (Dr)

Discipline 4.2.82

Date _____

☐ 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 date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USIT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Site _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed William H. Bralson Date 4/8-82 Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.
C'Port

Form no.
CPT
IIC1

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1103-27

1. Town Cambridge

Address 158 Auburn Street

Name Asa Ellis House

Present use residential

Present owner Catherine Babalas

3. Description:

Date 1805

Source deed records

Style Federal

Architect unknown

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Outbuildings (describe) none

Other features five-bay facade
capped by a low-pitched hip roof.

Fanlight over entrance.

Altered Yes-minor Date ----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre

Approximate frontage 50 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
8 feet

6. Recorded by Robert Rettig

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm

Date 1969

UTM - BOSTON SOUTH
19/326620/4692040

NOV 14 1980



7. Original owner (if known) Asa Ellis

Original use residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates residential

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

158 Auburn Street is a rare example of a frame Federal style house in Cambridgeport. It is one of the most appealing houses in the Cambridgeport neighborhood with its side entrance facing a flower garden. It still retains the rural village flavor of old Cambridgeport.

The house has a typical two-story, two-room center-hall plan, with the hearth centered on the rear wall. Only one of the two original chimneys remains. The five-bay facade is capped by a low-pitched hip roof. Over the entrance is a fanlight with simple wood tracery.

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INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge	Form No: CPT II.C.1
Property Name: Asa Ellis House	

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

The Asa Ellis House is one of a handful of Federal-style buildings surviving from the first period of development in Cambridgeport. Cambridgeport developed along the turnpikes built to link the West Boston Bridge of 1793 with Old Cambridge and the towns to the west. The resulting real estate boom ended with the Embargo of 1807-1809, and very little new construction then took place until the 1830s. This house and others also nominated (172 Harvard Street, Old Cambridgeport N.R.D.; 107, 108, and 114 Auburn Street, Salem-Watson Streets N.R.D.) represent the relatively modest type of housing constructed in this period, when Cambridgeport was a new settlement on previously vacant land.

The original clapboards remain under the asphalt siding, and while the windows have been changed from 6 + 6 to 2 + 2, this was an almost invariable alteration carried out during the nineteenth century. This house can easily be restored to its original condition and is no less significant for its present state.

The Asa Ellis House possesses integrity of location, design, and setting as well as integrity of materials beneath its present asphalt siding. It meets criterion A for its associations with the development of Cambridgeport and criterion C as a rare representative of Federal period domestic construction.

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 5 of 7

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

41. Boston Woven Hose and Rubber
Company

DOE/OWNER

OBJECTION

✓ Keeper

Return 4.13.82

Attest

42. Davenport Car Works

✓ Keeper

Return 4.13.82

Attest

43. Ellis, Asa, House

✓ Keeper

Br L. Day 6/30/83
Return 4.13.82

Attest

44. Flentje, Ernst, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Return Br Day 6/30/83

Attest

45. Kennedy, The

✓ Keeper

Return 4.13.82

Attest

46. Lamson, Rufus, House

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

47. Mason, Josiah, Jr., House

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

48. Newman, Andrew, House

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

49. Odd Fellows Hall

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

50. President's House

DOE/OWNER

OBJECTION

✓ Keeper

Return 4.13.82

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Ellis, Asa, House
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

(Cambridge MRA)

Working No. 11.14.80.286.2
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 7/4/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/30/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

☒ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appealSubstantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

INTEGRITY ADDRESSED

Recom./Criteria A+C
Reviewer Mac Nadeau
Discipline A.H.
Date 6.30.83
☐ see continuation sheetNomination returned for: ☐ technical corrections cited below
☐ substantive reasons discussed below1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveyshas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS Reference _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Title _____ Date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1103-27

NOV 14 1980

Ellis, Asa, House

0840

Cambridge MRA, Ma

158 Auburn St.

1103-27

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275