

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.

Form no.

NW CAMB.

NWC
IIB1

1. Town Cambridge

is 1853 Massachusetts Avenue

Lovell Block

nt use residential/commercial

ent owner Avis Buntin & Edward A. Mayer

ription:

1882

ource deed records

e Queen Anne - Panelled Brick

hitect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick, limestone

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features: front facade of complex
patterned brick with limestone
trim.

Altered No Date:-----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre

Approximate frontage 70 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
0 feet

6. Recorded by Arthur Krim

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

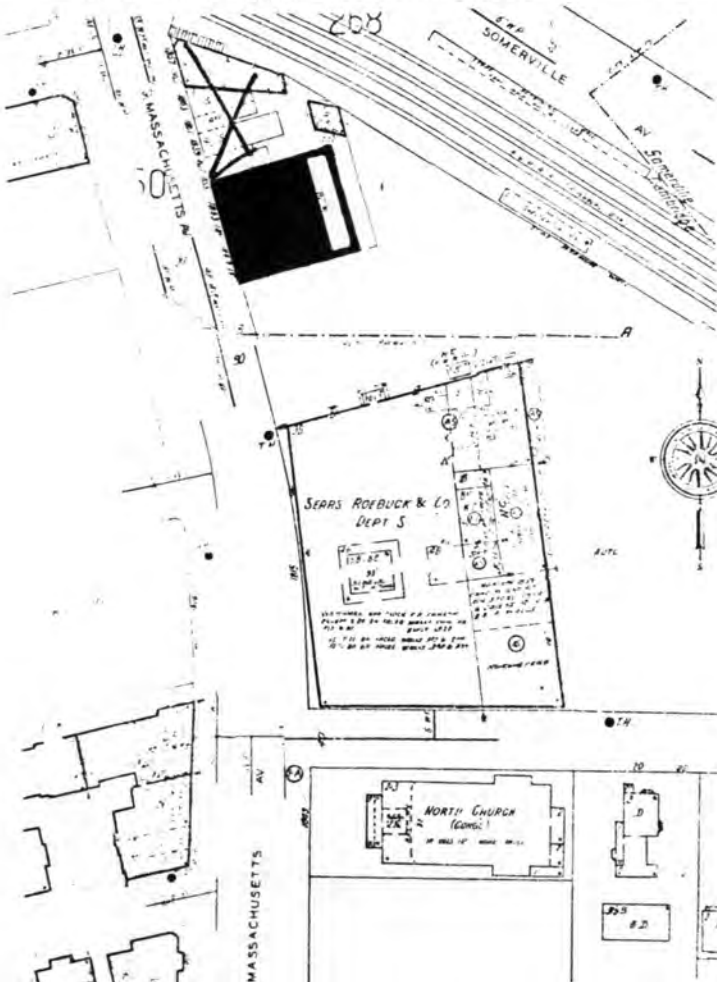
Date 1972

UTM-BOSTON NORTH
19/325520/4694740



in relation to nearest cross street
other buildings. Indicate north.

1105-17



Assessor # 152-47

7. Original owner (if known) Andrew Jackson Lovell

Original use commercial/residential

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

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	<u>XX</u>	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	_____				

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

NOV 1981

The Lovell Block was built in 1882 for Andrew Jackson Lovell as a combination commercial/residential block. The ground floor stores included a branch of the owner's grocery business, and the specifically designed headquarters of the North Cambridge Post Office, while the two upper floors contained only four well-appointed flats.

The building was designed in the Panelled Brick variant of the Queen Anne style, with a rather complex brick front facade. The dominant features of the facade are the corbelled cornice and the tripartite arch within a projecting frontispiece. The arch frames a signet stone with the builder's name and date, flanked by two windows which light the attic.

Architecturally, the Lovell Block is substantially unchanged from its original appearance, both on the exterior and interior. The interiors are a free interpretation of the Eastlake style, of high quality in detail and execution. Most of the original mechanical fittings have remained in place, including plumbing fixtures, radiators, dumbwaiters and gas lighting jets, making the building a valuable historical and architectural artifact.

This building was voted eligible for the National Register

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, in 1977, early maps, etc.)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Lovell Block (Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)
State, County: MA - Middlesex
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-2862
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 4-17-82
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/13/82
☒ RETURN
☐ REJECT

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

photos 1
maps _____

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

Reviewer's comments:

No comparative statement of architectural significance.
- No contextual info -
Return

Recom./Criteria Return
Reviewer Braun
Discipline Arch / His
Date 4.5.82
☐ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT 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 Andrus

Signed Brauham Date 4/13/82 Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

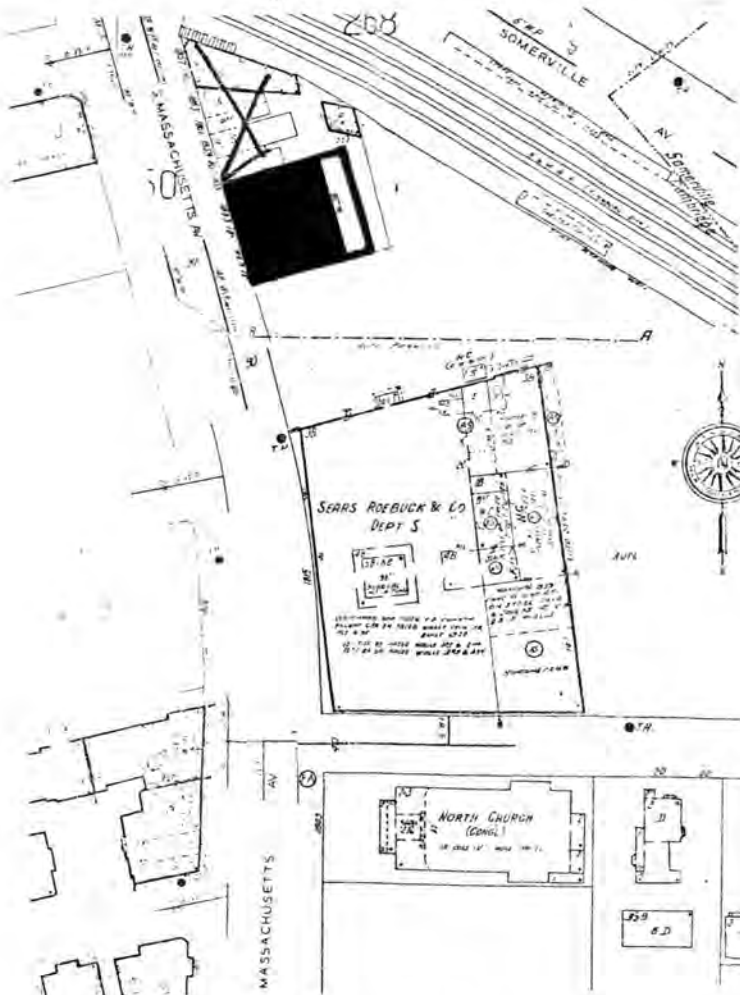
FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
NW CAMB.	NWC IIB1

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1105-17

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



Assessor # 152-47

1. Town Cambridge

Address 1853 Massachusetts Avenue

Name Lovell Block

Present use residential/commercial

Present owner Avis Buntin & Edward A. Mayer

3. Description:

Date 1882

Source deed records

Style Queen Anne - Panelled Brick

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick, limestone

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features front facade of complex
patterned brick with limestone
trim.

Altered No Date: -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

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Approximate distance of building from street
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6. Recorded by Arthur Krim

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm

Date 1972

UTM-BOSTON NORTH
19/325520/4694740

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Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

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

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

NOV 14 1981

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- This building was voted eligible for the National Register
10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, in 1977. early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Northwest Cambridge	Form No: NWC II.B.1
Property Name: Lovell Block	

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

The Lovell Block, constructed in 1882, represents an attempt to provide a full range of housing for an actively growing middle class community primarily comprised of Boston businessmen and others oriented to the transportation provided by the Fitchburg Railroad depot located just behind the building. With the opening of the Fitchburg depot in 1843 and the establishment of a horsecar line to Harvard Square in 1856, Porter Square became the transportation hub of Cambridge. At the same time, North (now Massachusetts) Avenue became the most sought after address in Cambridge for the Boston businessman seeking a spacious avenue on which to build a suburban showplace. By 1875, North Avenue was lined with elaborate mansions, and Porter Square had become, in the words of a contemporary newspaper, "two communities divided by the railroad tracks". North of the tracks were the taverns and stockyards, as well as a growing lower middle class suburb, while south of the tracks was prestigious North Avenue and the newly developing suburb of Avon Hill (Avon Hill N.R.D.).

The Lovell Block was built to provide relatively expensive rental accommodations that were otherwise unavailable in the North Avenue community. It contained only four flats, as well as the post office and the only grocer serving the neighborhood. Buildings of this type were rare in Cambridge; most multifamily structures of this period were tenements or row houses, as the "flat" concept did not become current until the construction of four-decker "hotels" in Central Square a few years later. Architecturally, it is closer to the Queen Anne panel brick designs then being built in the Back Bay, translated to the mixed use, multi-family concept executed here.

The Lovell Block is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the North Avenue community in the last half of the nineteenth century, and under Criterion C for its unduplicated architectural style and quality.

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 14 of 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

131. Conventual Church of St. Mary
and St. John

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

132. Second Cambridge Savings
Bank Building

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Paul H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

133. Frost, David, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Paul H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

134. Howe House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Paul H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

135. Lowell, The

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Paul H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

136. Willis, Stillman, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

137. Second Waterhouse House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Paul H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

138. Harvard Observatory

SEAS TOWER -
owner objection
withdrawn

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

Keeper

Carol D. Hull 2-26-87

Attest

Betty L. Sarge 2-26-87

139. Almshouse

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Brachman 4.13.82

Attest

140. Lovell Block

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Paul H. Doyle 6.30.82

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Lovell Block (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MA

Working No. 11.14-80-2862
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 7/4/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/30/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

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

Federal Agency:

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

Reviewer's comments:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE REVISED.

Recom. / Criteria ATC / ACCEPT
Reviewer M. C. DODGE
Discipline A-1+
Date 8-30-83
see continuation sheet

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

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

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

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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

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



1105-17

NOV 14 1980

Lovell Brookbridge MRA
Cambridge MRA, Ma

0490

1853 Massachusetts Ave.

1105 -17

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275