

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

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

Form numbers in this area

Cambridgeport

Area no.

CPT
I.5

1. Town Cambridge

Name of area (if any) Old Cambridgeport

National Register District

3. General date or period 1805-1850

4. Is area uniform (explain):

in style? No, mixed

in condition? Yes, good to excellent

in type of ownership? Private

in use? Yes, residential

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")

Staple to left side of form

Photo number 1100-30

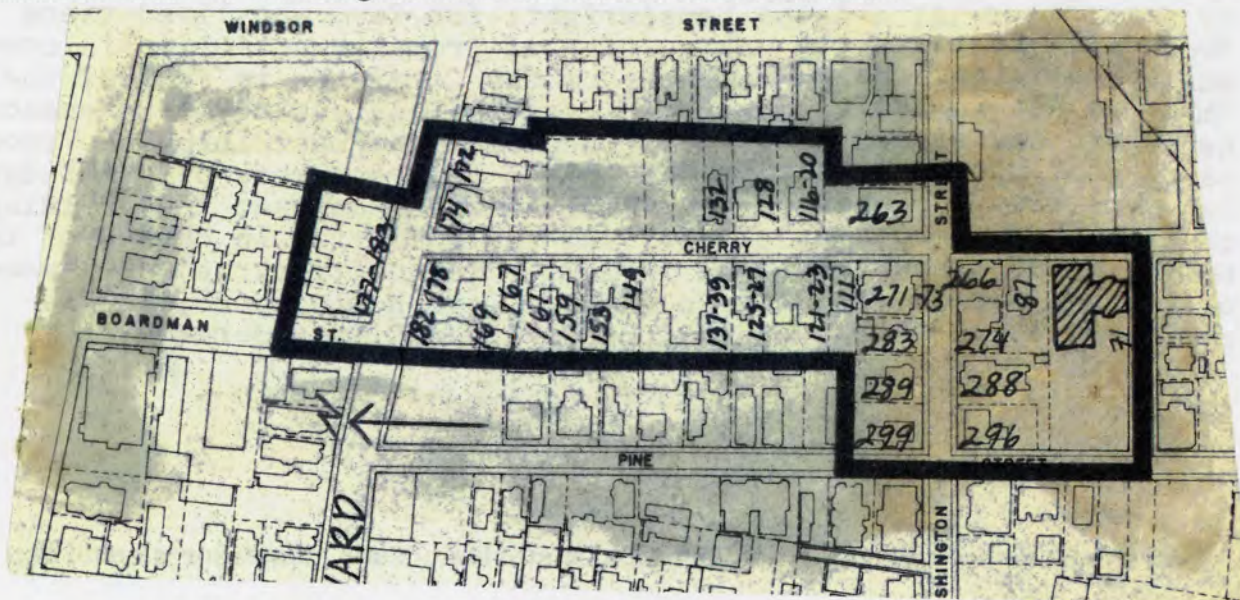
1100-31

1100-32

1100-33

1100-35

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.



NOV 14 1980

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

4.290 ACRES

6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1965

(over)

UTM-BOSTON SOUTH

19/327300/4692300

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The proposed Old Cambridgeport district was the site of the initial development north of Massachusetts Avenue in Cambridgeport, and contains some of the oldest houses remaining in that section of the city. During 1805-06, generous one hundred foot square house lots were sold by Andrew Boardman on Washington and Cherry Streets; however, early growth was sparse, and was limited by the failure of the Broad Canal development caused by the Embargo of 1807.

Several Federal houses remain in the area, all in moderately good states of preservation. Notable among them is the Margaret Fuller house of 1807, which is of exceptional architectural and historical significance. In addition, there are a number of important Greek Revival houses. This was a prosperous, conservative neighborhood and contained the residences of such substantial citizens as the Reverend Thomas Wittemore (#288 Washington Street) and the historian Lucius Paige (296 Washington Street).

1. Samuel P. P. Fay House (1805), 172 Harvard Street (Amos Ramsdell, housewright)

The Fay House is significant because of its association with Samuel Fay, a prominent Cambridge citizen. The house was built on land originally owned by Andrew Boardman. The structure was built by Amos Ramsdell, a local housewright, for Fay, who lived there from 1806 to 1815. Fay was a Judge of Probate and active in community affairs. He was a member of the Committee to Protest the Embargo Act in 1807. Along with Francis Dana and Royal Makepeace, he wrote and signed a letter to the President describing the economic hardship imposed by the Embargo Act on the residents of Cambridge. Fay was also a member of the committee which opposed the building of a highway across the Common, and the committee in charge of the building of a new town house in 1830. In addition, he was a warden of Christ Church from 1833 to 1840, a Governor's councillor, a representative in the General Court, and a City Alderman.

(continued)

8. 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: Old Cambridgeport Historic District
(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 5

maps _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

Collection of early 19th century houses significant for the area. Street terminates in a 2nd Empire row, however, which is not justified.

Return for explanation/expansion of area of significance to include/exclude these row houses

Recom./Criteria Return

Reviewer Barbara Brinkman

Discipline Arch/His

Date 4.6.82

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

Address 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 Andrew

Signed Bravham

Date 4/18/82

Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

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 17

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 1. East Cambridge Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>Brown/An Dwyer 6-30-83</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 2. Winter Street Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>William H. Brachman 4-13-82</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 3. Upper Magazine Street Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>William H. Brachman 4-13-82</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 4. Hastings Square Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>William H. Brachman 4-13-82</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 5. Salem-Auburn Streets Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>William H. Brachman 4-13-82</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 6. Inman Square Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>William H. Brachman 4-13-82</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 7. Old Cambridgeport Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>Brown/An Dwyer 6-30-83</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 8. Norfolk Street Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>William H. Brachman 4-13-82</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 9. Cambridge Gateway Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>William H. Brachman 4-13-82</u> |
| | | Attest | |
| 10. Bigelow Street Historic District | ✓ Substantive Review | ✓ Keeper | <u>William H. Brachman 4-13-82</u> |
| | | Attest | |

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Old Cambridgeport Historic District
(Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. 11/14/80-2860
Fed. Reg. Date: 12-7-84
Date Due: 7/4/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/30/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

INCLUSION OF THE ALLEN BLOCK EXPLAINED.

Recom./Criteria ABC/DEF
Reviewer Marking
Discipline 6.30.83
Date A.11
see continuation sheet

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

- 1. Name
- 2. Location
- 3. Classification
- 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/interior

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 _____

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 _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1106-33

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MRA, Ma
old Cambridge port H.D.

OLD CAMB'PORT

137-39 Cherry
1100-33



1100-35

Cambridge MRA Ma
Old Cambridge port H.D.

OLD CAMB'PORT

177-183 Harvard

1100-35

NOV 14 1980



1100-31

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge M.H., Ma
Old Cambridgeport H., D.

OLD CAMB'PORT

87 Cherry

1100 - 31



1100-32

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MRA, MA
old Cambridge port H.D.

OLD CAMB' PORT

288 + 296 Washington

1100-32



1100-30

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MRA, Ma

Old Cambridgeport H.A.

0760
OLD CAMB'PORT

71 Cherry

1100-30



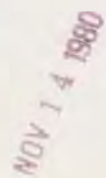
Cambridge MA, Ma

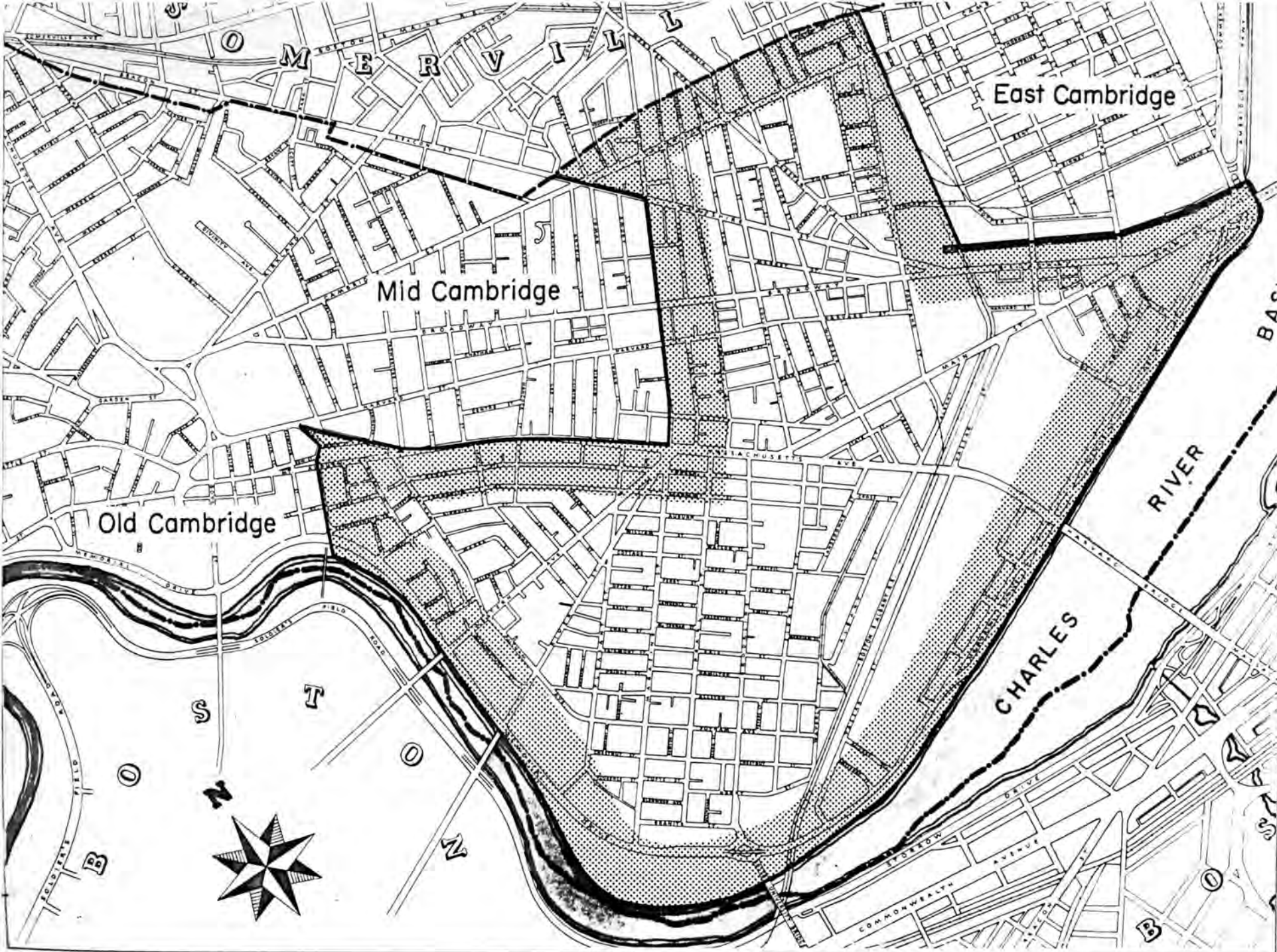
Old Cambridgeport Historic District

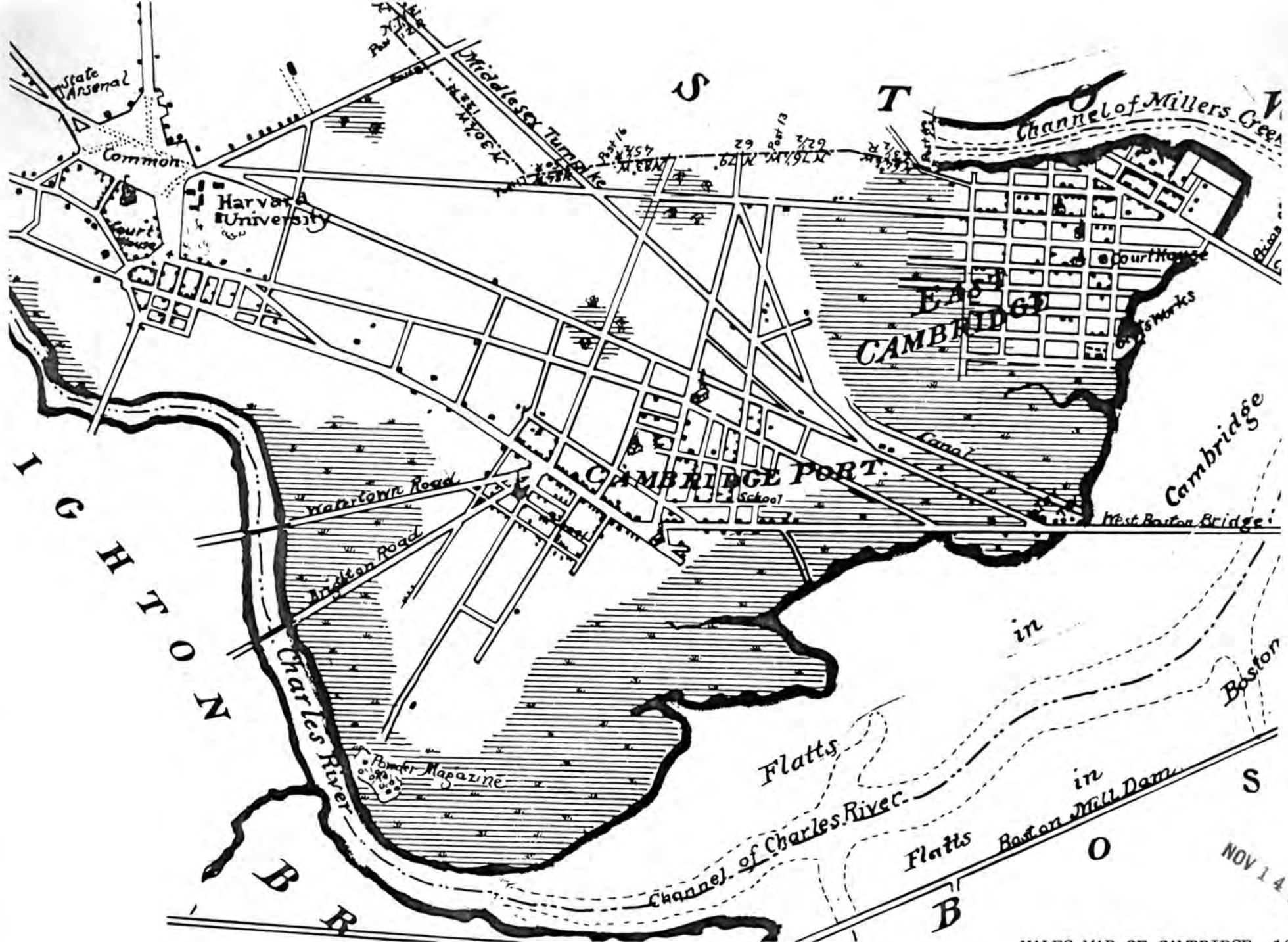
Allen Block

ALLEN BLOCK, 177-183 HARVARD ST
VIEWED FROM CHERRY ST.

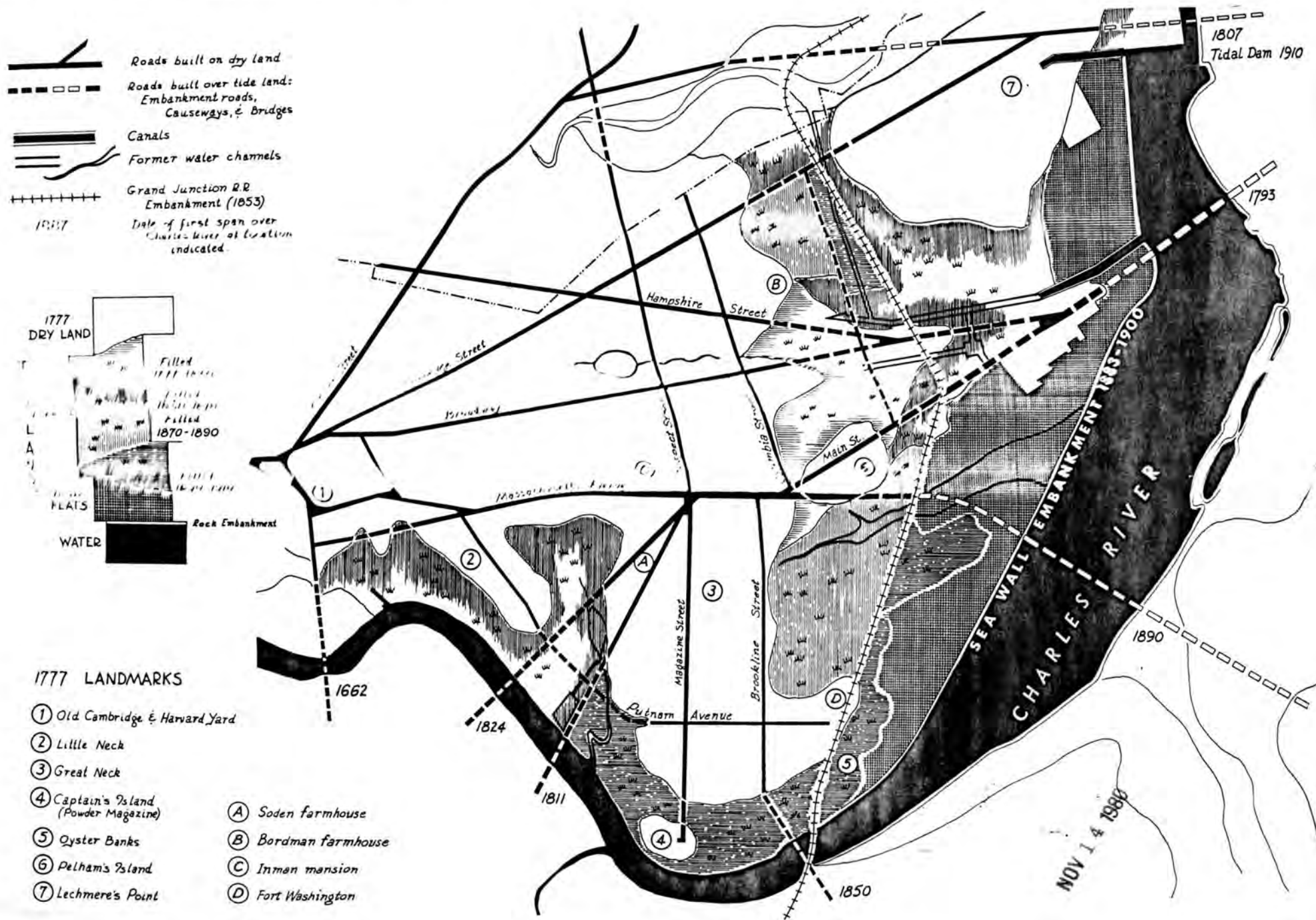
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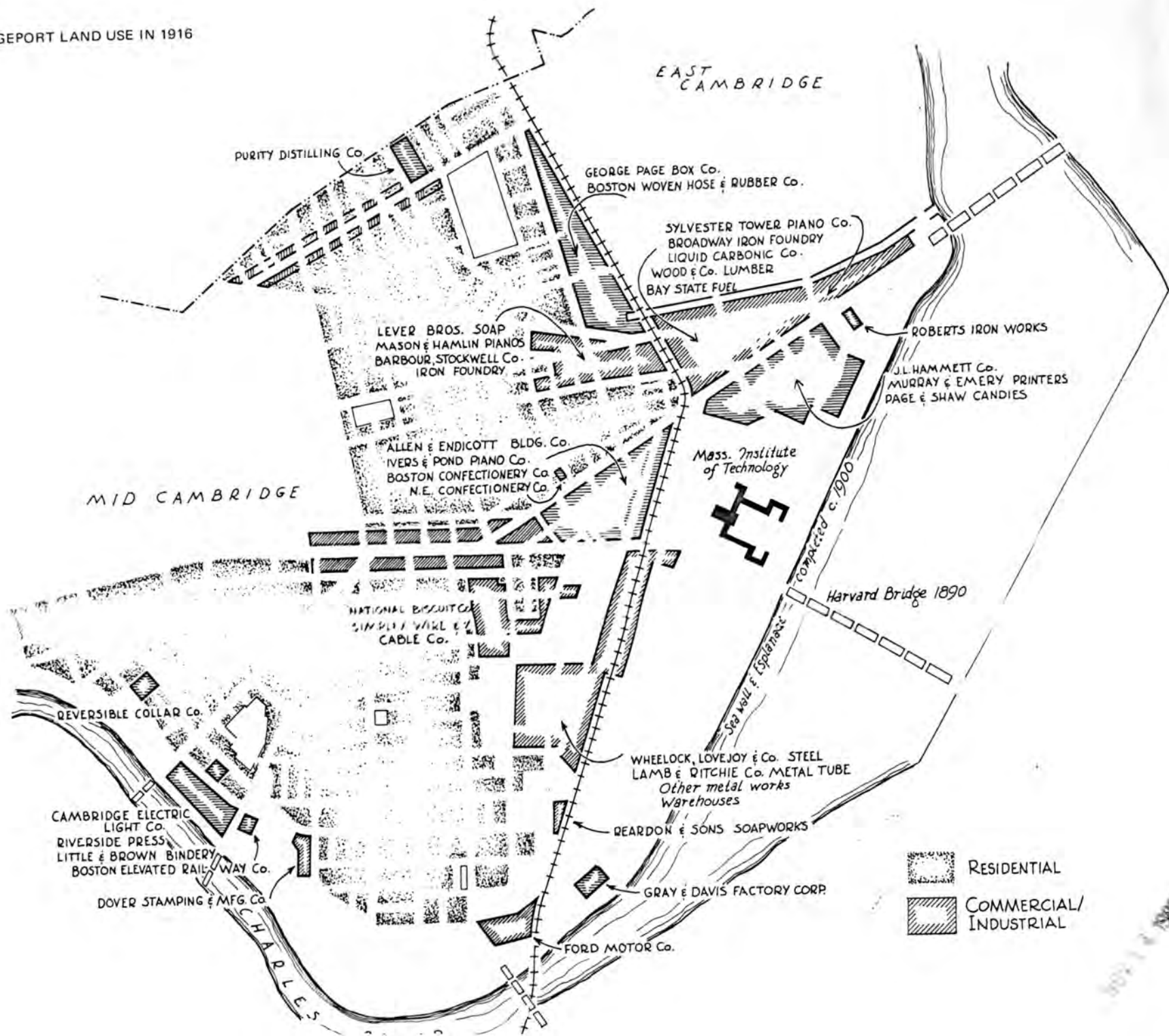




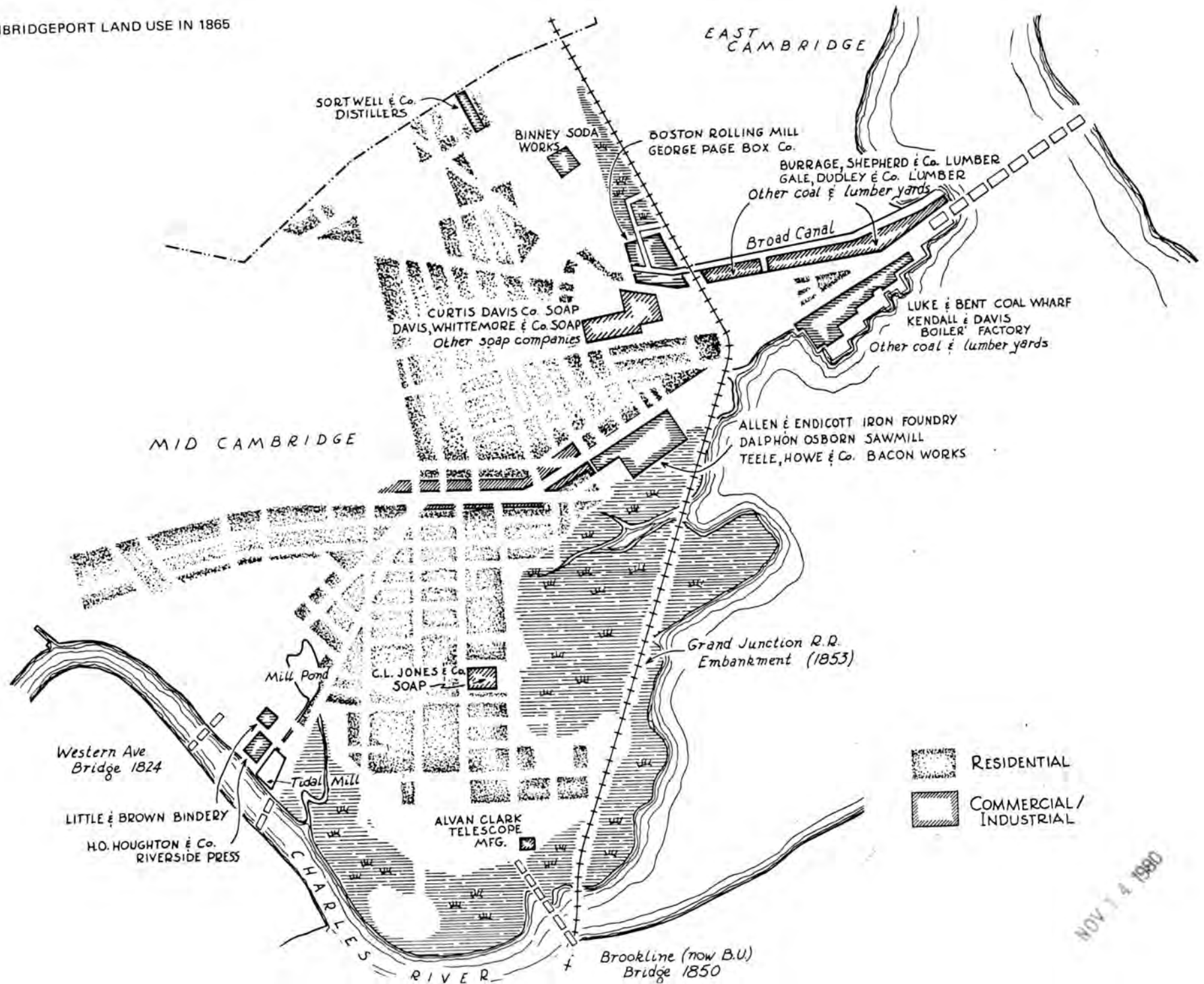
7. CAMBRIDGEPORT SHORELINE AND ROAD DEVELOPMENT



23. CAMBRIDGEPORT LAND USE IN 1916



18. CAMBRIDGEPORT LAND USE IN 1865



NOV 14 1990

NORTHWEST CAMBRIDGE
SURVEY AREA



NOV 14 1990

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275