

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Boston

In Area no.

C'port

Form no.

CPT

IIC12

1. Town Cambridge

Address 129 Magazine Street

Name Ernst Flentje House

Present use residential

Present owner Trustees of the Carmela Trust: Rose Spera and David Anne-
3. Description: 1 Florence St., chiarico.
Cambridge, MA

Date 1866

Source deed records
Built as Mansard, remodelled in
Style Colonial Revival style-1900

Architect anonymous

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features Elaborate 3-decker with
twin curvilinear 3-tier porches,
creating heart-shaped plan with
swell-front bays.

Altered Yes - by William Clark, architect Date 1900

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 150 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
20 feet

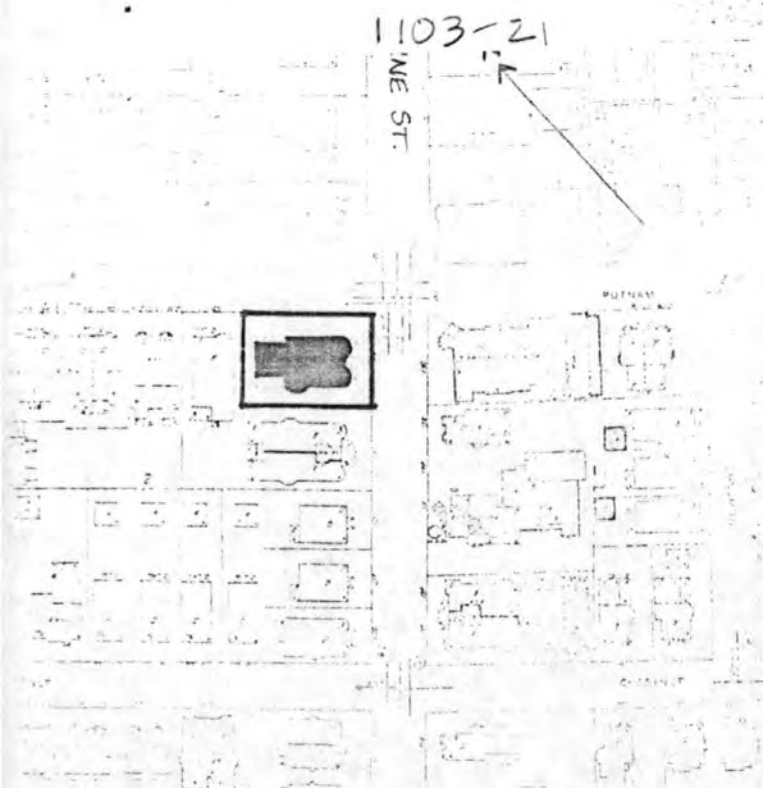
6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1965

UTM - BOSTON SOUTH

19/326020/4691580



Assessor # 101-160

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Sulvilyer H. Sanborn

Original use residence - one family home

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates multi-family dwelling after 1900

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</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)

This house was one of six mansions built for prosperous Cambridgeport businessmen at the time of the Civil War, when upper Magazine Street had become a fashionable residential district. The house was the residence of Sanborn, owner of a book bindery and a City Alderman and Common Councilman in the 1870s. The house was converted into a three-story apartment building in 1900 by its owner, Ernst Flentje, who built the neighboring apartment buildings, 131 Magazine Street (1898) and 431 Putnam Avenue (1900). William Clark was the architect of both the new buildings, also elaborate Colonial Revivals, as well as the remodelling of 129 Magazine Street.

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: Fleentie, Ernest 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

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

photos _____
 maps _____

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

Reviewer's comments:

This needs a stronger statement of significance that explains the significance of this bldg. in its present Colonial Revival style as compared to other examples in Cambridge - i.e. what makes this individually eligible.

Recom./Criteria Return
 Reviewer Patrick Andrus WAB
 Discipline Historian
 Date 4/2/82
☐ see continuation sheet

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

1. Name2. Location3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property5. Location of Legal Description6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

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

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 Brachman 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.

C'port

CPT
IIC12

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1103-21

1. Town Cambridge

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Altered Yes - by William Clark, architect Date 1900

Moved No Date -----

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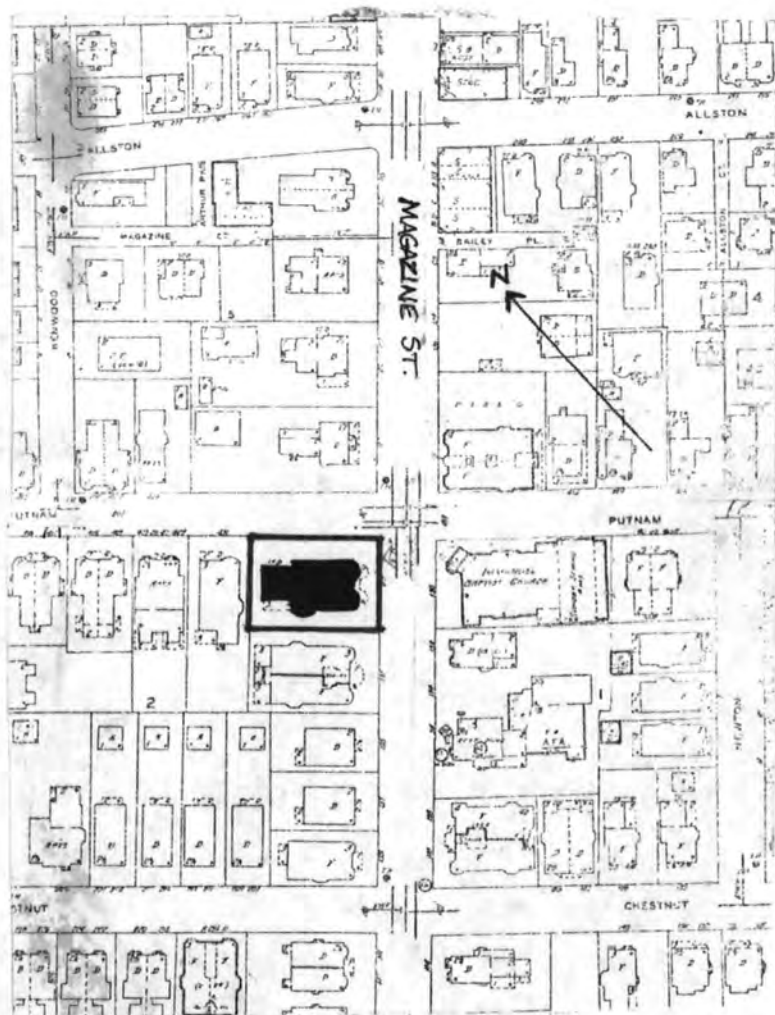
6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1965

UTM - BOSTON SOUTH

19/326086/4691580



Assessor # 101-160

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Sulvilyer H. Sanborn

Original use residence - one family home

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates multi-family dwelling after 1900

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</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)

This house was one of six mansions built for prosperous Cambridgeport businessmen at the time of the Civil War, when upper Magazine Street had become a fashionable residential district. The house was the residence of Sanborn, owner of a book bindery and a City Alderman and Common Councilman in the 1870s. The house was converted into a three-story apartment building in 1900 by its owner, Ernst Plentje, who built the neighboring apartment buildings, 131 Magazine Street (1898) and 431 Putnam Avenue (1900). William Clark was the architect of both the new buildings, also elaborate Colonial Revivals, as well as the remodelling of 129 Magazine Street.

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

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Cambridge	Form No: CPT II.C.12
Property Name: Ernst Flentje House	

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

The Ernst Flentje House is significant as the stylistic epitome of the three-decker type in Cambridge. It was characterized by Bainbridge Bunting, the Commission's Survey Director, as "an extraordinary three-decker - (the) most exaggeratedly elaborate in all Cambridgeport".* The fact that an earlier mansion was converted to a three-decker of extreme opulence reflects the social changes taking place in Cambridgeport at the turn of the century. The wave of elaborate mansions that followed the opening of the horse car route to Boston in 1853 had subsided, and the first generation of owners began to die off by 1880. With the electrification of street cars after 1895, lower Cambridgeport became attractive to the new middleclass. The three-decker type of housing, which was pioneered in Cambridge by the "hotels" of the 1880s (see Norfolk Street N.R.D.) gained acceptance by architectural elaboration of what was first seen as a type of structure one grade above the tenement. The exuberantly detailed Flentje House is an important manifestation of this shift in social attitudes toward housing. The Ernst Flentje House meets criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places.

*Cambridge Architectural Inventory form, 1965.

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. H. Br. 6/30/83
Attest Return 4.13.82
44. Flentje, Ernst, House **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper Br. H. Br. 6/30/83
Attest _____
45. Kennedy, The ✓ Keeper Return 4.13.82
Attest _____
46. Lamson, Rufus, House ✓ Keeper William H. Br. 4.13.82
Attest _____
47. Mason, Josiah, Jr., House ✓ Keeper William H. Br. 4.13.82
Attest _____
48. Newman, Andrew, House ✓ Keeper William H. Br. 4.13.82
Attest _____
49. Odd Fellows Hall **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper William H. Br. 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

Flentje, Ernst, House
... (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MASSACHUSETTSWorking No. 11.14.80.2862
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 7/1/83
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:

*Significance expanded to demonstrate
eligibility.*Recom./Criteria 4+ / 2000
Reviewer Mar. Dray
Discipline A.H.
Date 6/30/86
☐ 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	☐ 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 _____
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



ERNST FLENTJE HOUSE
129 MACAZINE STREET
CHC 1196-7

Cambridge MA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275