

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
Old Camb.	OC IIC7

1. Town Cambridge
Address 980 Memorial Drive
Name Conventual Church of St. Mary
and St. John
Present use church

Present owner Society of St. John,
Evangelist, Boston

3. Description:

Date 1936

Source deed records

Style Medieval

Architect Cram & Ferguson

Exterior wall fabric stone and stucco

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features accurate replica of
medieval Burgundian forms of the
twelfth century.

Altered No Date -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 275 Feet

Approximate distance of building from street
20 feet

6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

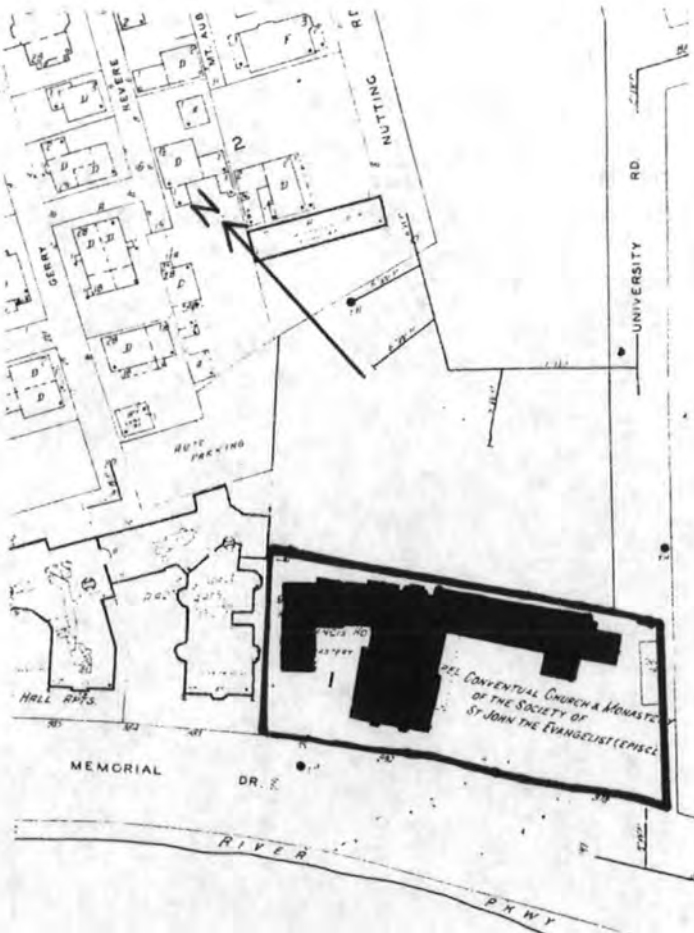
Date 1964

UTM - NEWTON

19/324080/4693980

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1098-14

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



Assessor # 165-26

7. Original owner (if known) Society of St. John the Evagelist

Original use church

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

This distinguished Romanesque building is the last in a series of Medieval Revival Cambridge churches. This 1936 design by Cram & Ferguson is the most archaeologically correct of all the City's Medieval churches. The church is enhanced by the riverfront setting, with flanking monastery buildings and walled gardens.

The Conventual Church is one of the finest American reproductions of a medieval building, done by the foremost architect in that vein, Ralph Adams Cram. The forms are accurate replicas of twelfth century Burgundian forms, and the design was featured in Architectural Record, June 1941. While six years shy of being fifty years old, the complex's architectural distinction and vulnerable location make immediate recognition highly desirable.

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

NOV 14 1980

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
written 4/13

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

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

Carol D. Hull 2-26-87

Attest

Beth 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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Conventual Church of St. Mary and St. John
(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:

has been demonstrated
 Exceptional significance for this 1936 church by
 Ralph Adams Cram.

Recom./Criteria C
 Reviewer Braham
 Discipline 4.5.82
 Date _____
☐ 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	☐ 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 _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1098-14

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MRA, Ma

Conventual Church of St. Mary & St. John

980 Memorial Drive

1098-14

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275