

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
E. Camb.	EC IIB1

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1101-11A

1. Town Cambridge

Address 613-621 Cambridge Street

Name Union Railway Car Barn

Present use commercial

Present owner Leo and Sophie Silver
621 Cambridge St., Camb.

3. Description:

Date 1869

Source assessor/deed records

Style late Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features Low-pitched gabled
roof with unusual stepped

brick cornice terminating in
shallow brick piers.

Altered No Date -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less X Over one acre -----

Approximate frontage 85 feet

Approximate distance of building from street

0 feet

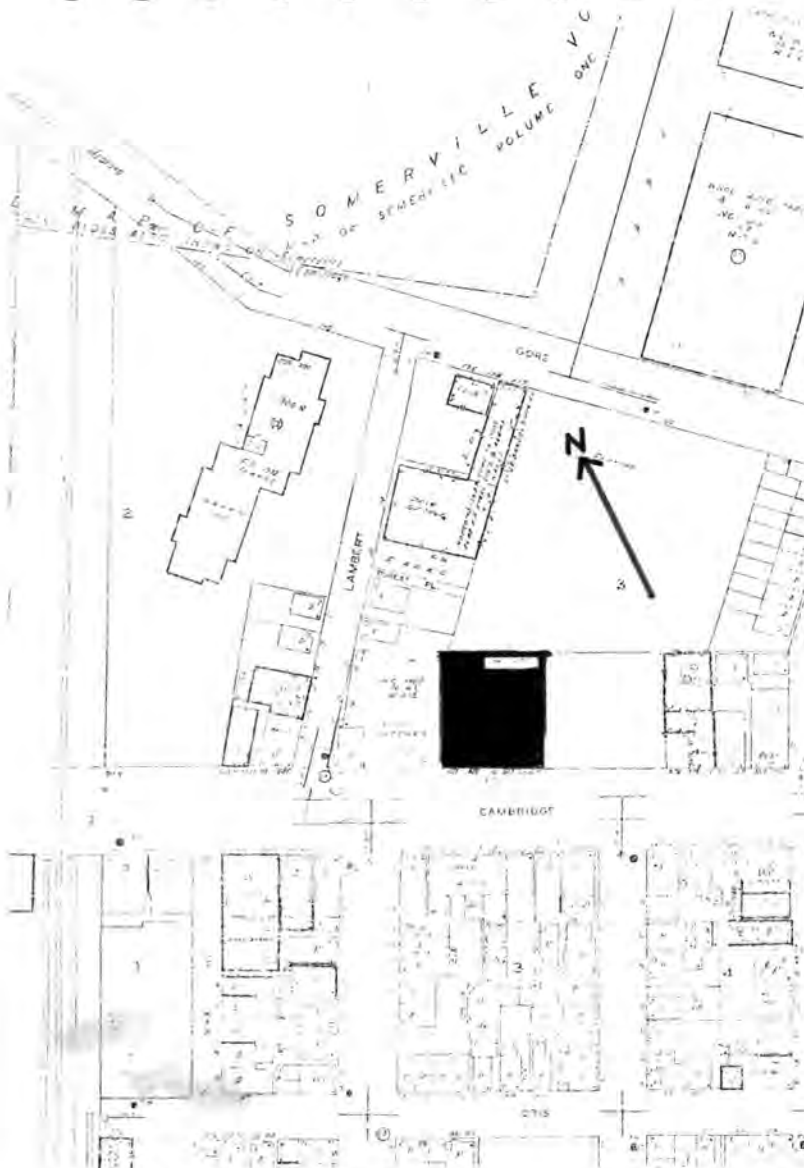
6. Recorded by Bainbridge Bunting

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm

Date 1964

UTM-BOSTON SOUTH

19/328160/4692980



Assessors #35-36

7. Original owner (if known) Union Railway Company

Original use horse car barns

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates commercial

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

The Union Railway Company was established in 1855 by Gardiner G. Hubbard to provide horse car service throughout Cambridge. By 1856 cars began running along Cambridge Street, and in 1859 a branch opened along Third Street from Cambridgeport into East Cambridge. By 1875 the company provided half hourly service from Harvard Square to Boston via Cambridge Street and East Cambridge.

To house its horse cars, the Union Railway in 1869 built a complex of brick carbarns along Cambridge Street near Lambert Street. Other Union Railway carbarns built in 1860 on Mt. Auburn Street near the cemetery and in 1874 on Massachusetts Avenue north of Porter Square have been drastically remodeled or demolished, making the Cambridge Street carbarn an unusual survivor. A large round arched window within a recessed brick arch forms the central focus of the facade. Although the first floor facade has been altered by the addition of a storefront, the building remains relatively intact and represents an important phase of the city's transportation history.

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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormFor NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 4 of 7

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

31. Bottle House Block

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

32. Building at 42 Edward J. Lopez
Avenue

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

33. East Cambridge Savings Bank

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

34. Hoyt, Benjamin, House

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

35. Lechmere Point Corporation
Houses

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

36. Sacred Heart Church, Rectory,
School and Convent

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

37. Union Railway Car Barn

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

38. B and B Chemical Company

Substantive Review

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

39. Baker House

Substantive Review

Determined Eligible

✓ Keeper

Attest

40. Beth Israel Synagogue

✓ Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

DOE/OWNER OBJECTION

1/27/87

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

37

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Union Rail ~~road~~ ^{way} CAR Barn (Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)
 State, County: MA - Middlesex
 Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-2862

Fed. Reg. Date: _____

Date Due: 4/17/82Action: ☒ ACCEPT 4/13/82☐ RETURN _____☐ REJECT _____photos 1

maps _____

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

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

Reviewer's comments:

Significant as part of development of city and
 the role that transportation played in that development.
 - Relatively intact example

Recom./Criteria AReviewer BraunamDiscipline Arch / HisDate 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 SurveysHas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no7. Description

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

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 _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



1101-11A

NOV 14 1980

Cambridge MRA, Me

0790

Union Railway Car Barn

613-621 Cambridge St.

1101-11A

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275