

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. MID CAMB.	Form no. ^{MC} II B 17
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1095-34

n Cambridge

ress 1715-17 Cambridge Street

e same

sent use residential

1715: Henry J. Friedman
sent owner 1717: Stephen and Celia
Somervell

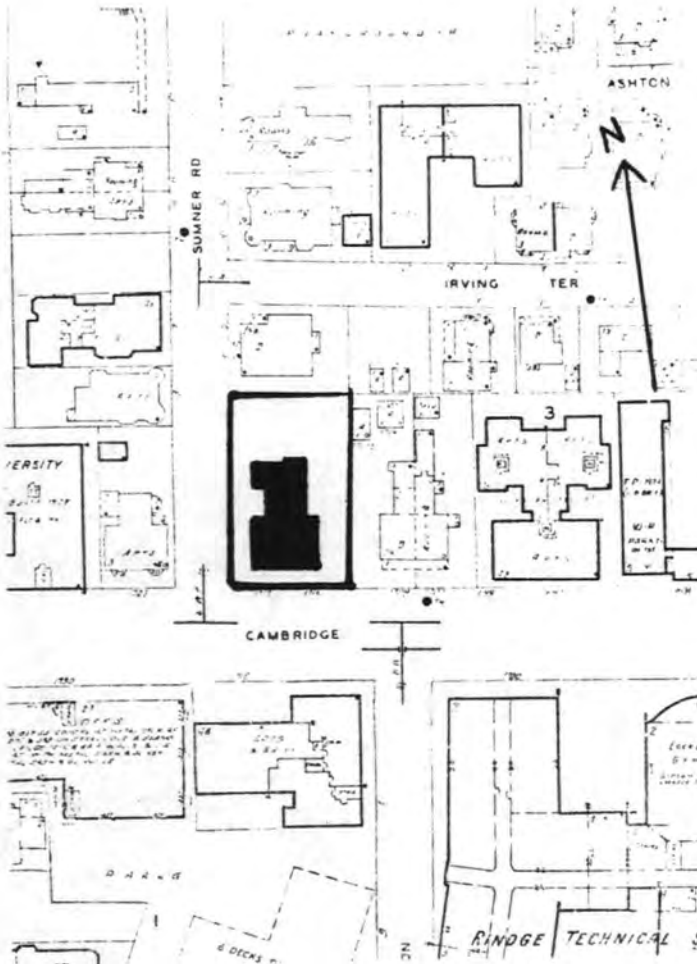
ription:

1845

ource deed records

Greek Revival

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



Architect Zenas Crowell & John Pickering, builders

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features two-storied, gabled-roofed house with full-width Doric porch.

Altered No Date -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 80'

Approximate distance of building from street

12'

6. Recorded by E. MacDougall

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1966

Assessor # 142-125
142-124

UTM-BOSTON NORTH
19/326060/4693400

7. Original owner (if known) Royal Richardson

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

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

One of two fine Greek Revival houses in this block of Cambridge Street, 1715-17 was built in 1845 as a rental property on contract for real estate speculator Royal Richardson. Standing beside each other with flanks to the street, the two almost identical houses have full-width Doric porches. The building contracts for both houses survive, each referring to existing houses that were to be copied both for appearance and for quality of materials. They both are nominated for their importance to the architectural history of Cambridge.

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

NOV 14 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Buildings at 715-1717 Cambridge Street
Property: 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 1
maps _____

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

Reviewer's comments:

Architectural significance
is not defined. No contextual
info (outside of its block) is
provided.

Recom./Criteria Return
Reviewer Aracham
Discipline Arch/His
Date 4.2.82
☐ 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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS 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 Braverman Date 4.13.87 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. MID CAMB.	Form no. ^{MC} II B 17
--------------------------	--------------------------------------

1. Town Cambridge

Address 1715-17 Cambridge Street

Name same

Present use residential

1715: Henry J. Friedman
Present owner 1717: Stephen and Celia
Somervell

3. Description:

Date 1845

Source deed records

Style Greek Revival

Architect Zenas Crowell & John Pickering, builder

Exterior wall fabric wood

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features two-storied, gabled-roofed house with full-width Doric porch.

Altered No Date -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

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

Approximate frontage 80'

Approximate distance of building from street

12'

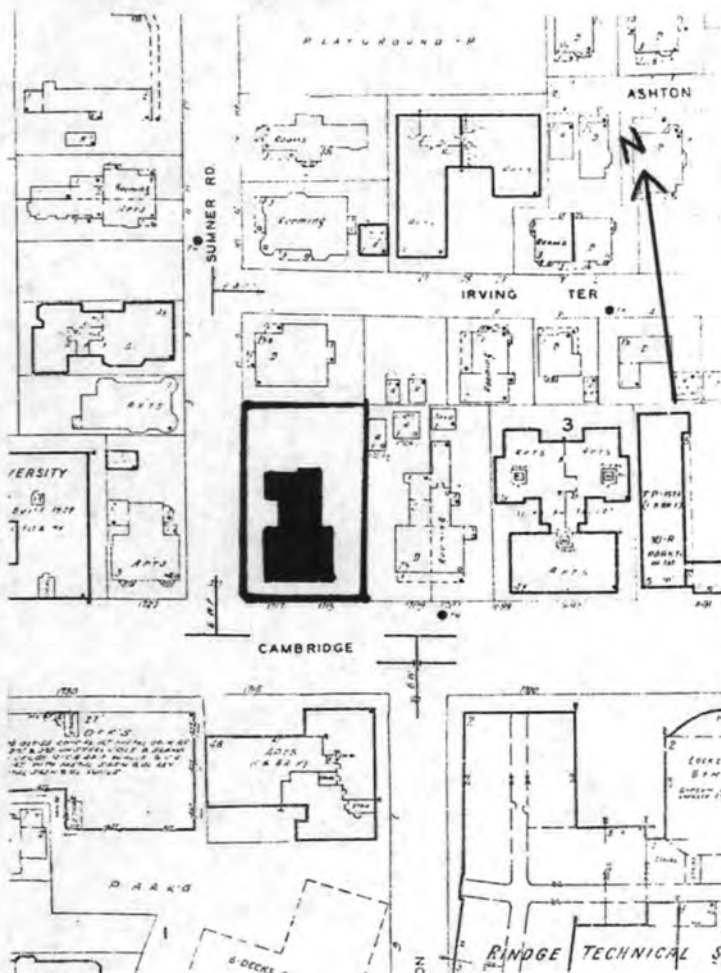
6. Recorded by E. MacDougall

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1966

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1095-34

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



Assessor # 142-125
142-124

UTM-BOSTON NORTH
19/326060/4693400

7. Original owner (if known) Royal Richardson

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

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

One of two fine Greek Revival houses in this block of Cambridge Street, 1715-17 was built in 1845 as a rental property on contract for real estate speculator Royal Richardson. Standing beside each other with flanks to the street, the two almost identical houses have full-width Doric porches. The building contracts for both houses survive, each referring to existing houses that were to be copied both for appearance and for quality of materials. They both are nominated for their importance to the architectural history of Cambridge.

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

NOV 14 1980

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Mid Cambridge	Form No: MC II.B.17
Property Name: 1715-1717 Cambridge Street	

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

Number 1715-1717 Cambridge Street is the second of a pair of essentially identical Greek Revival double houses proposed for National Register status. Along with the adjacent house at 1707-1709 Cambridge Street, this house is part of an original group of four similar structures built in a row along Cambridge Street by Royal Richardson, a local speculator, between 1840 and 1845. Two of the buildings have been demolished.

These houses represent the high point of the vernacular Greek Revival style in Cambridge. Each of the four houses that originally lined Cambridge Street on this block presented its gable flank to the street, with a full Doric portico and four pedimented dormers above. The effect of this repetition of classical forms, still seen in the two remaining houses, is striking.

The Royal Richardson houses are particularly notable in that the original contracts survive, revealing a great deal about building practices of the time. In each contract, reference is made to a specific existing structure to be copied for appearance and quality of materials. This practice indicates a lack of working drawings and accounts for the use of pattern book ornament. Costs of the houses ranged between \$2,500 and \$4,000 depending on the degree of interior finish specified. Use of mixed stylistic detail is verified by the specification for "Gothic sash" in the contract, and by the appearance of panelled Gothic doors on the two surviving houses.

The houses at 1707-1709 and 1715-1717 Cambridge Street are significant under Criteria C as important examples of the Greek Revival style in Cambridge.

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 8 417

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

71. Melvin, Isaac, House

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

William H. Brasham 4.13.82

Attest

72. Saunders, William, House

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

Wm L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

73. Fay, Isaac, House

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

Wm L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

74. Buildings at 102-104 Inman St.

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

Wm L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

75. Buildings at 106-108 Inman St.

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

William H. Brasham 4.13.82

Attest

76. Buildings at 110-112 Inman St.

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

William H. Brasham 4.13.82

Attest

77. Buildings at 1707-1709 Cambridge St.

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

Wm L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

78. Buildings at 1715-1717 Cambridge St.

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

Wm L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

79. Deane-Williams House

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

William H. Brasham 4.13.82

Attest

80. Vinal, Albert, House

~~Substantive Review~~ ✓

Keeper

Wm L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service*Substantive Review*Building at 1715--1717 Cambridge St. (Cambridge MRA)
Middlesex County
MAWorking No. 11.14.80-2862Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84Date Due: 7/4/83Action: ☒ ACCEPT 6/30/83
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

☒ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appealSubstantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☒ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

SIGNIFICANCE CLARIFIED
*CONTEXT PROVIDED*Recom. / Criteria C/acceptReviewer Mac DeckerDiscipline A-17Date 6.30.83☐ 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	☐ altered

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

8. Significance

Period _____ Area 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 _____

USFT 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



1095-34

NOV 14 1980

914C

Building at

1715-17 Cambridge St.

Cambridge MRA, Ma

1095-34

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275