

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

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

Form numbers in this area	Area no.
Mid Cambridge	MC I 6

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

1. Town Cambridge

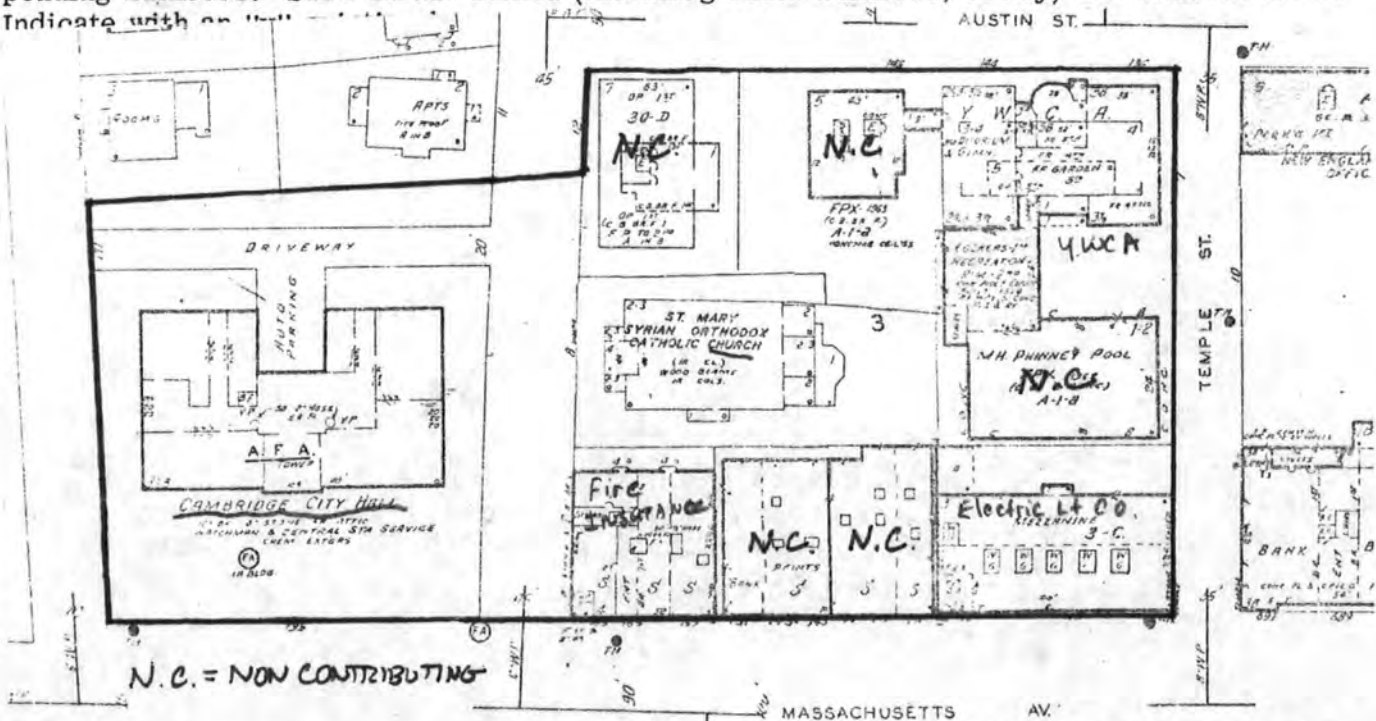
Name of area (if any) City Hall

National Register District

3. General date or period 1880-1912

4. Is area uniform (explain):
in style? no, mixed styles
in condition? yes, generally very good
in type of ownership? no, city, church, e
in use? no, offices, stores, residence

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 "N.C." non-contributing.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

NOV 14 1980

6. Recorded by Robert Rettig, Susan Maycock, Daniel Reiff,
A. Downing, R. Nylander
Organization Cambridge Historical Com.

Date 1967-1968

3.042 ACRES

(over)

UTM-BOSTON SOUTH
19/326630/4692420

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

The City Hall National Register District reflects the late 19th century development of the Central Square area from single family homes and stores to a modern civic center of city buildings and corporate structures. The area began this stage of development in the late 1880's with the construction of Cambridge City Hall on a hill commanding Massachusetts Avenue. Its Richardsonian Romanesque style is consistent with that of its contemporary the Cambridge Mutual Fire Insurance Building, and both buildings serve as complementary anchors to this section of Massachusetts Avenue. Bounding the district on the east are the Renaissance Revival Cambridge Electric Light Company Building on Massachusetts Avenue and the Cambridge Young Women's Christian Association which was built off the main street in the Italian Palazzo style. The First Universalist Society moved their church, built in 1822, to a site facing City Hall in 1888, reflecting the shift of civic authority from the first Cambridgeport settlement in Lafayette Square to the new institutional center of the city.

1. Syrian Orthodox Catholic Church (1822), 8 Inman Street

The Syrian Orthodox Catholic Church is of great importance as the earliest of the Mid Cambridge churches and the second oldest church building in the entire city. Built in Lafayette Square in 1822 for the First Universalist Society, the structure was moved to its present site in 1888. A complete remodelling in 1858 by Thomas Silloway is documented in contemporary newspaper accounts. Silloway, a Unitarian minister-turned-architect, designed over three hundred churches throughout New England. He raised the building, rebuilt the spire and created the Italianate facade. After the building was moved in 1888, further changes were made including the addition of the large rose window above the entrance.

2. Cambridge Mutual Fire Insurance Building (1888), 763 Massachusetts Av
John A. Hasty, Architect

The Mutual Fire Insurance Building is important as a handsome visual companion to Cambridge City Hall, across Inman Street. The Fire Insurance Building was designed in 1888 by John A. Hasty, a

8. 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: Mid Cambridge	Form No: MC I 6
Property Name: City Hall N. R. D.	

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

Cambridge Mutual Fire Insurance Building (continued)

prolific local architect. The Richardsonian Romanesque building is decorated with polychromatic checkerboard masonry bands. The four-story building of brownstone and granite is anchored to its corner location by a tower.

3. Cambridge City Hall (1889), 795 Massachusetts Avenue
Longfellow, Alden & Harlow, architects

The Cambridge City Hall is the handsomest of the four public buildings made possible through the generosity of Frederick Hastings Rindge. The City's most important public building is impressively sited, solidly built, and still serving its original purpose. It is a fine example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style.

4. Cambridge Young Women's Christian Association Building (1910),
7 Temple Street, Newhall & Blevins, architects

Built the same year that Newhall & Blevins were expanding the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A. is fortunate in still having its open roof loggia, the most notable feature of this U-shaped, villa-like stuccoed building. The original structure was built in 1910. Since that time, two additional buildings have been constructed. A wing was added in 1953, designed by architects Anderson & Beckwith. The same firm also changed the entrance in the same year and added the swimming pool in 1961. The dormitory wing of the Y.W.C.A. is sympathetic to the original building in color and surface material. Its prominent overhanging eave echoed that of the original building.

5. Cambridge Electric Light Company Building (1912), 719 Massachusetts
Avenue, Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, architects

Inspired by Renaissance palaces and loggias, this structure was built as the administrative headquarters of the Cambridge Gas Company in 1912. After the merger of the Cambridge Gas Company and the Cambridge Electric Light Company, the building continued to serve as office space. The two-story limestone structure has seven bays.

The City Hall National Register District includes portions of Massachusetts Avenue between Bigelow and Temple Streets, and includes frontage on Inman and Richard Allen Drive. (see Cambridge Community Development P.D. Quad Map 3). Boundaries were chosen to include properties reflecting late nineteenth century development of Central Square into a civic center.

- END -

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

EXP. 12/31/84

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2417

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Cambridge Multiple Resource Area
State MA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- ✓ 11. Garfield Street Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper Bruce MacPhee 6/30/83
Attest Harvard
- ✓ 12. Harvard Street Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper William H. Brannan 4.13.82
Attest _____
- Result ✓ 13. Kirkland Place Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper Patrick Andrews 5/19/86
Attest Betty L. Savage 5-14-8
- ✓ 14. Maple Avenue Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper Bruce MacPhee 6/30/83
Attest _____
- ✓ 15. City Hall Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper William H. Brannan 4.13.82
Attest _____
- ✓ 16. Ash Street Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper William H. Brannan 4.13.82
Attest _____
- ✓ 17. Avon Hill Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper Bruce MacPhee 6.30.83
Attest Return 4.13.82
- ✓ 18. Berkeley Street Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper William H. Brannan 4.13.82
Attest _____
- ✓ 19. Cambridge Common Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper Bruce MacPhee 6.30.83
Attest - Harvard
- ✓ 20. Gold Coast Historic District
Substantive Review
Keeper Pat 6/10/82
Attest Harvard

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: City Hall 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 4/13/82
☐ RETURN _____
☐ REJECT _____

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

photos 5
 maps _____

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

Reviewer's comments:

*Significant concentration
 of purple brickings -*

Recom. / Criteria C
 Reviewer Braun
 Discipline Arch/His
 Date 4.5.82
☐ 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 PropertyLocation of Legal DescriptionRepresentation 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 _____

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



1093-26A

Cambridge MRA Ma

City Hall H.D.

Cambridge Electric Light Company Building

NOV 14 1980

719 Massachusetts Ave.

1520



1093-23A

7 Temple St.

Cambridge MRA, Ma
City Hall H.D.

YWCA

7 Temple St

NOV 14 1986

1520

Y.W.C.A. - Mid-Camb.



1104-9A

NOV 14 1980

0850

Cambridge MA. Ms

City Hall H.D.

Cambridge Mutual Fire Insurance Building

763 Massachusetts Ave.

1104 - 9A



1093-24A

Cambridge MA Ma

City Hall H.P.

Syrian Orthodox Catholic Church

NOV 14 1980

8 Inman St.
1520



1093-29A

Cambridge MA, Ma
City Hall H.D.
Cambridge City Hall

NOV 14 1980

9800

795 Massachusetts Ave.

City Hall

1093-29A

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275