

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no.	Form no.
Camb'port	CPT IIA2

1. Town Cambridge

Address 536 Massachusetts Avenue

Name Odd Fellows Hall

Present use commercial

Present owner Kenneth W. Estridge,
Trustee

3. Description:

Date 1883-1884

Source Cambridge Chronicle, June 188

Style Richardsonian orientation

Architect Hartwell & Richardson

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features pressed brick with molde
brick and terra cotta ornament,
arches on first and third stories.

Altered No Date -----

Moved No Date -----

5. Lot size:

One acre or less XX Over one acre ---

Approximate frontage 50 feet

Approximate distance of building from street
0 feet

6. Recorded by Harriet White

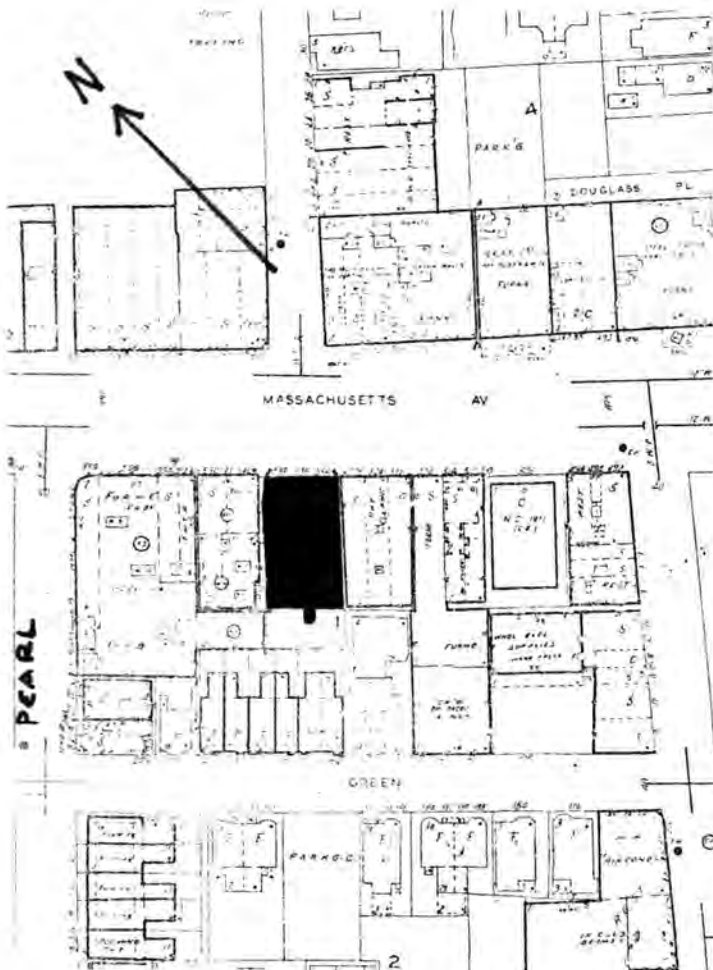
Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date June 1980

UTM - BOSTON SOUTH
19/326860/4692130

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")
Staple to left side of form
Photo number 1104-5A

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



ASSESSOR # 93-75

7. Original owner (if known) unknown

Original use mixed commercial and social meeting space

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates same

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

Odd Fellow's Hall was built in 1884 by the firm of Hartwell and Richardson, popular architects and followers of the style of H.H. Richardson. It is a noteworthy example of a mid-nineteenth century "hall" building. Halls such as this played an important role in 19th century community life by accommodating group functions such as meetings, dances, concerts, etc. These functions took place on the upper floors of commercial buildings to take maximum advantage of what would have otherwise been unused space. During the early years of the 20th century, Odd Fellows' Hall housed a moving picture theatre and a vaudeville theatre.

The Hall was designed in 1883 and built in 1884. The five-story building contains stores on the ground floor, a two-story galleried meeting hall behind the space of the main arches, and lodge and banquet rooms on the upper floors. All ornament is confined to the facade of the building, and the primary decoration emphasizes the meeting hall space.

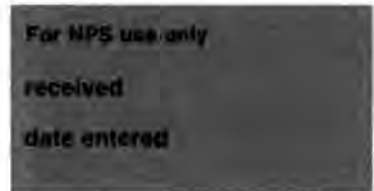
10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

This building is discussed in Survey of architectural History in Cambridge Series, Report Three: Cambridgeport, pp. 102-3.

NOV 14 1987

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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 Return 4.13.82
Attest _____
- 44. Flentje, Ernst, House **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper Return 6/30/83
Attest _____
- 45. Kennedy, The ✓ Keeper Return 4.13.82
Attest _____
- 46. Lamson, Rufus, House ✓ Keeper William H. Braham 4.13.82
Attest _____
- 47. Mason, Josiah, Jr., House ✓ Keeper William H. Braham 4.13.82
Attest _____
- 48. Newman, Andrew, House ✓ Keeper William H. Braham 4.13.82
Attest _____
- 49. Odd Fellows Hall **Substantive Review** ✓ Keeper William H. Braham 4.13.82
Attest _____
- 50. President's House **DOE/OWNER OBJECTION** ✓ Keeper Return 4.13.82
Attest _____

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Odd Fellows Hall (Cambridge Multiple Resource Area)
State, County: MA - Middlesex
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 11-14-80-286 2
Fed. Reg. Date: _____
Date Due: 4/17/82
Action: 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:

Locally significant for criteria C - built in 1883-4, influenced by the Richardson Romanesque Revival style, this building is the most architecturally impressive and preserved of the social halls built in Cambridgeport. (See note on reverse re. significance of this building).

Recom. / Criteria Accept - C
Reviewer Patrick Andrus with B
Discipline Historic
Date 3/15/82
 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
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
		<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

FILED APR 19 1982

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

Note: The statement of significance on the inventory form is weak - however, info. found in Vol. 3 of the Cambridge Survey (pp. 102-3) provides sufficient context to determine this building's significance

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Address 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 _____

Site _____ 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



1104-5A

NOV 14 1980

O B G C

Cambridge MA, Ma

Odd Fellows Hall

536 Massachusetts Ave.

1104-5A

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275