



Cambridge Historical Commission

City Hall Annex, 57 Inman Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 02139. 617/498-9040



Robert G. Neiley, *Chairman*; William B. King, *Vice Chairman*; Charles M. Sullivan, *Executive Director*.
Dwight H. Andrews; Arthur H. Brooks, Jr.; James F. Clapp, Jr.; Charles W. Eliot, 2d; Joseph G. Sakey; *Commission Members*.
John Lyons, Geneva T. Malenfant, Frances Pierce, *Alternates*.

October 30, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council

The Cambridge Historical Commission is currently conducting a city-wide survey of significant buildings, sites, and neighborhoods to support a Multiple Resource nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's official list of historical and cultural resources. Federal policy now permits cities which have completed an architectural inventory to prepare a single, comprehensive nomination to the National Register of all eligible properties within their jurisdictions.

The implications of National Register designation are as follows:

- 1) National Register status provides for review of Federally-funded projects, such as the Red Line Extension, which would impact designated buildings, districts and neighborhoods.
- 2) National Register status makes private property owners eligible to be considered for Federal grants for historic preservation through the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Cambridge has received an average \$50,000 per year for this property, although last year the amount allocated exceeded \$150,000.
- 3) National Register status makes owners who rehabilitate their historic properties eligible for Federal tax benefits. Owners who demolish Registered buildings may not deduct the cost of demolition or claim accelerated depreciation on any new building.
- 4) National Register status does not prevent an owner from altering or demolishing a building, as long as Federal funds are not used. After designation, no control whatever is exercised by the Cambridge Historical Commission or any other local body.

To the Honorable, the City Council

- 2 -

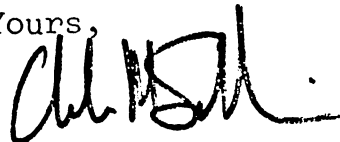
October 30, 1979

The Multiple Resource Listing will permit the nomination, at one time, of all the properties and districts within the city which are presently considered eligible for the National Register. This will eliminate the uncertainty faced by planners and developers, and will provide a clear list of preservative priorities for the City.

During the preliminary phase of the project, the Cambridge Historical Commission is reviewing the buildings, districts and neighborhoods in all sections of the city which are being considered for nomination. To ensure that all concerned are aware of the implications of Register listing, each owner will be notified in advance and public meetings will be held in each neighborhood where nominations will be made. Discussions with community groups, neighborhood associations, and others potentially affected will be held as often as necessary in order to achieve fullest possible acceptance and support of the proposed National Register nominations.

The Commission feels that this process is the best possible way to ensure that Cambridge's historic and cultural resources receive the protection they deserve.

Yours,



Charles M. Sullivan
Executive Director

CMS/dl

Attachment

National Register Criteria for Evaluation

The following criteria are designed as a guide for evaluating potential entries for the National Register:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or

- C. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- D. a cemetery that derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- G. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

As published by the
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Cambridge Historical Commission
October 31, 1979



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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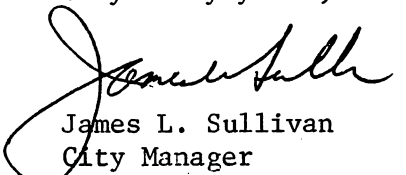
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

November 19, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed for your information is a copy of a communication from Charles Sullivan relative to the Cambridge Historical Commission's City-wide survey of significant buildings, sites, and neighborhoods to support a Multiple Resource nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

S-616

RE: communication from Charles Sullivan re:
Cambridge Historical Commission's city-wide
survey of significant buildings, sites
and neighborhoods to support a Multiple
Resource nomination to the National Register.

In City Council,
November 19, 1979

11/19/79

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