



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To James L. Sullivan
City Manager
Date June 4, 1979

From Charles M. Sullivan
Historical Commission
Reference

Subject Council Order No. 14--5/21/79 re: Cornerstone Baptist Church

The listing of the Cornerstone Baptist Church on the National Register of Historic Places was initiated by the Cambridge Historical Commission to protect an important historical and architectural landmark. The Cornerstone congregation and their pastor, Rev. Rolland C. Starr, have objected to the designation on the grounds that the action infringes on their ability to sell the property.

While the nomination was initiated by the Cambridge Historical Commission, the actual nomination was made by the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). The Church expressed its opposition at a public hearing held by the MHC, which found the nomination to be in the public interest and chose to proceed. The Department of the Interior accepted the nomination and confirmed the Commission's finding.

The National Register designation does not prevent demolition of the Church or redevelopment of the site, although the tax disadvantages discourage demolition. The designation does create a more favorable economic climate for reuse of the building through eligibility for federal grants and tax benefits for appropriate rehabilitation.

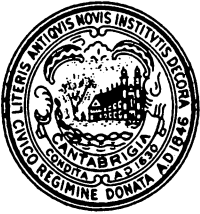
The Cambridge Historical Commission regrets Rev. Starr's opposition to the National Register designation of the Cornerstone Baptist Church. However, the Massachusetts Historical Commission has recently allocated a grant of \$100,000 for preservation of the building. The grant could facilitate the sale of the property, or could be used by the Church itself if they chose to stay and restore the building. This grant is a direct result of the listing of the building on the Register.

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OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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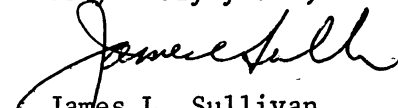
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

June 11, 1979

To the Honorable, the City Council:

I transmit herewith communication received from Charles M. Sullivan, Historical Commission, in answer to Awaiting Report Item No. 22, City Council Order No. 14 of May 21, 1979, relative to the Cornerstone Baptist Church.

Very truly yours,


James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/b

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Response to Awaiting Report No. 22 re:
Cornerstone Baptist Church being placed on
the National Register.

In City Council,
June 11, 1979

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