

FORM B - BUILDING

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

In Area no. MID CAMB.	Form no. MC II B 11
--------------------------	---------------------------

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number 1105-4

1. Town Cambridge

Address 6 Prentiss Street

Name William Saunders House

Present use nursing home

Present owner Louis Almeida, Trustee of Exeter House Nursing Home

3. Description: Swansea, MA.

Date 1843

Source deed records

Style Greek Revival

Architect William Saunders, builder

Exterior wall fabric clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) -----

Other features Facade, with gable end to the street, is divided into bays

by the two end pilasters with Tuscan capitals, and two middle pilasters w/  
Altered yes, c.1960 Date Ionic capital

Moved Yes Date circa 1926

5. Lot size:

One acre or less  Over one acre

Approximate frontage 83'

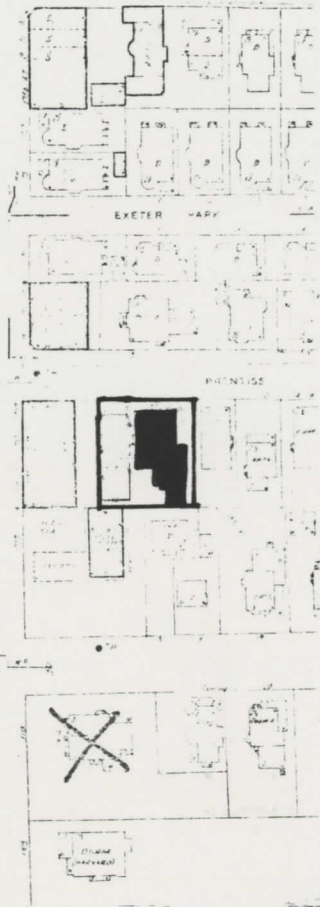
Approximate distance of building from street

12'

6. Recorded by Elisabeth MacDougall

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1966



ASSESSOR # 154-98

(over)

UTM- BOSTON NORTH  
19/325520/4694380

7. Original owner (if known) William Saunders

Original use private home

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates nursing home,

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

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

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

The Saunders House is a classic example of a Greek Revival residence with monumental pilasters and cornice in imitation of a classical pediment. The house was moved from Massachusetts Avenue to its present location circa 1926. The porch entablature is ornamented with wreaths.

The house was built for his son by William Saunders, a carpenter/builder active in the first half of the nineteenth century. The elder Saunders was responsible for a number of Federal, Greek Revival and Regency houses in Cambridge.

Despite the unfortunate replacement of the original porch column shafts, the Saunders' detailing has otherwise survived intact and is unusual for this area. Its move in 1926 saved it from probable demolition as commercial pressure increased along Massachusetts Avenue and indicates that the importance of the house was recognized even at that time.

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

NOV 14 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: William Saunders House  
(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:

*Stronger justification / context needed  
Please compare this building to other examples of its  
architectural style in Cambridge.*

Recom. / Criteria Return  
Reviewer Braham  
Discipline Arch-His  
Date 4-6-82  
 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:  excellent  deteriorated  good  ruins  fair  unexposed  
Check one:  unaltered  altered  
Check one:  original site  moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

for NPS use only

## 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

Acres 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 Andrus

Signed Brabham Date 4/12-82 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.	Form no.
MID CAMB.	MC II B 11

1. Town Cambridge

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Name William Saunders House

Present use nursing home

Present owner Louis Almeida, Trustee of Exeter House Nursing Home

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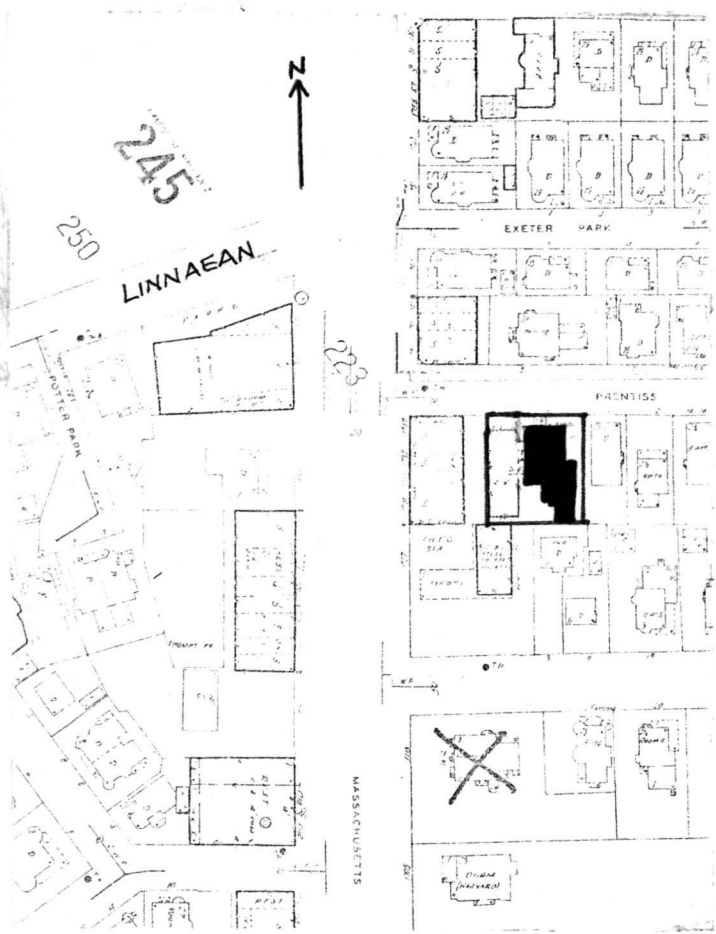
12'

6. Recorded by Elisabeth MacDougall

Organization Cambridge Historical Comm.

Date 1966

2. Photo (3x3" or 3x5")  
Staple to left side of form  
Photo number 1105-4



ASSESSOR # 154-98

(over)

UTM- BOSTON NORTH  
19/325520/4694380

7. Original owner (if known) William Saunders

Original use private home

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates nursing home,

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	_____				

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

The Saunders House is a classic example of a Greek Revival residence with monumental pilasters and cornice in imitation of a classical pediment. The house was moved from Massachusetts Avenue to its present location circa 1926. The porch entablature is ornamented with wreaths.

The house was built for his son by William Saunders, a carpenter/builder active in the first half of the nineteenth century. The elder Saunders was responsible for a number of Federal, Greek Revival and Regency houses in Cambridge.

Despite the unfortunate replacement of the original porch column shafts, the Saunders' detailing has otherwise survived intact and is unusual for this area. Its move in 1926 saved it from probable demolition as commercial pressure increased along Massachusetts Avenue and indicates that the importance of the house was recognized even at that time.

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.11
Property Name: William Saunders House (1843) 6 Prentiss Street	

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

The William Saunders House is significant as a handsome and intact example of an architectural type that has not survived in large numbers in Cambridge. The house is the work of master builder William Saunders; only three other examples of his work remain in Cambridge: the Frost House (1807); Saunders' own residence (1820); and the Sparks House (1838), all three nominated to the National Register.

The Saunders House is notable architecturally in that it creates the effect of a temple front, not with a full portico, but rather by using colossal applied pilasters and a cornice carried across the gable, suggesting a classical pediment. This house has the latest date (1843) of the four Saunders-designed buildings in Cambridge, and it represents the evolution of the architect's mature style.

The northern end of Mid Cambridge was ready for development once the railroad station at Porter Square was in operation, thus rendering Boston within easy commuting distance. The Saunders House is one of two substantial Greek Revival houses built on North (Massachusetts) Avenue at the time the railroad commenced its passenger service to Boston. The Saunders House was moved to its Prentiss Street location in 1843; the other, the Stillman Wills House (1839), also on the National Register, was moved to 1 Potter Park. The Wills House was extensively remodelled in 1883 and 1904, overwhelming the original simple lines. The Saunders House, therefore, is the only one of its date in unaltered condition.

The William Saunders House is significant under Criterion A for its role in the development of the North Avenue community, and under Criterion C as an important example of its type and style.

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 of 17

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. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

72. Saunders, William, House

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

73. Fay, Isaac, House

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

74. Buildings at 102-104 Inman St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

75. Buildings at 106-108 Inman St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

76. Buildings at 110-112 Inman St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

77. Buildings at 1707-1709 Cambridge St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

78. Buildings at 1715-1717 Cambridge St.

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

79. Deane-Williams House

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

William H. Bracham 4.13.82

Attest

80. Vinal, Albert, House

Substantive Review ✓

Keeper

Robert L. Doyle 6.30.83

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Saunders, William, House (Cambridge MRA)  
Middlesex County  
MA

Working No. 11.14.80-2862  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84  
Date Due: 7/7/83  
Action:  ACCEPT 6/30/83  
 RETURN  
 REJECT

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

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*CONTEXT PROVIDED*

Recom. / Criteria Att  
Reviewer Max Boyd  
Discipline A.H.  
Date 6.30.83  
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       unaltered       original site  
 good       ruins       altered       moved      date \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair       unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

---

## 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

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

Address of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

USGT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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



1105-4

NOV 14 1980

049C

Cambridge MRA, Ma

Saunders, William, Huse

6 Prentiss St.

1105-4

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000275