Designated by City Council on January 28, 1985, the Mid Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District, with approximately 2,000 buildings, extends from Prescott Street east to Prospect Street and south from Kirkland and Hampshire Streets to Massachusetts Avenue.



Lions Outside the Lombardi Building, 831 Massachusetts Ave, 2014. CHC Archives.

If you'd like to learn more about your house, who lived there, or the neighborhood - or even if you have questions about a potential project on your house - please contact the Historical Commission office to set up an appointment. We have survey files for the properties in the area, some historical photos, city directories, and the survey book, "Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge Report Two: Mid-Cambridge" that a history of the area.

Photographs on front (starting at top left, moving clockwise)
8 Inman Street, Moving up Mass Ave, 1888. Cambridge
Historical Commission Archives.
80-82 Ellery Street, 1947. Cambridge Historical Commission.
7 Ware Street, 1926, CHC Archives.
795 Massachusetts Avenue, 1896. CHC Archives.



Cambridge Historical Commission 831 Massachusetts Avenue, 2nd Floor Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

MID CAMBRIDGE

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT











Cambridge Historical Commission

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MID CAMBRIDGE

NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The District Order outlines the criteria for applications considered by the Commission.

Section IV., Review Criteria to be Considered by the Commission, A. General Criteria

All applications *shall* be considered in terms of the impact of the [proposed action]... on the District as a whole, and in addition with regard to the potential adverse effects . . . on the immediate streetscape and the economic assessment of the alternatives to the proposed action.

General objectives shall be to:

- Avoid excessive infill;
- Encourage new construction which complements existing buildings;
- Encourage preservation of neighborhood buildings;
- Protect National Register structures; and
- Enhance the economic vitality of the neighborhood.

The authority of the conservation district order is structured as follows:

- A. The Commission may make **non-binding** recommendations for any of the following that are visible from a public way:
 - 1. New construction, including additions . . . of more than 150 and less than 750 square feet of floor area:
 - 2. Alteration of the exterior appearance of a structure that requires a variance or special permit . . .
 - 3. Alteration involving any of the following:
 - a. Removal or enclosure of any historic or original decorative element . . .
 - Increase or diminishment of the size and/ or change in the location of windows or doors

- c. Increase or diminishment of the slope, pitch, or configuration of a roof or removal of historic or original roofing material.
- B. The Commission may make **binding** recommendations for that portion of any of the following that are visible from a public way:
 - 1. New construction, including additions . . . involving any of the following:
 - a. More than 750 square feet of floor area
 - b. More than 33% of the lot area not already occupied by structures
 - c. Enlargement of the floor area of an existing structure by more than 33%

- Demolition of 33% or more of the floor area of an existing structure not originally used to garage automobiles, including relocation of an existing structure onto or off of a site;
- 3. Any alteration or construction of the following:
 - Structures listed on the National Register of Historic Places, except those subject to Historical Commission review;
 - b. Publicly owned structures; or
 - c. Structures containing or proposed to contain non-conforming uses.

