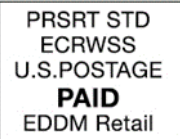




## CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

831 Massachusetts Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139  
Telephone: 617 349 4683 Fax: 617 349 3116 TTY: 617 349 6112  
E-mail: [histcomm@cambridgema.gov](mailto:histcomm@cambridgema.gov)  
URL: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/Historic>



Postal Customer

To: East Cambridge Residents and Property Owners

The East Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District Study Committee, which has been meeting for the last two years to study the desirability of establishing a neighborhood conservation district in the area, solicits your participation.

An East Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District, if adopted, would regulate demolition, new construction, and certain alterations to existing buildings with the goal of protecting the architectural character of the area while allowing appropriate change and development.

In general, NCDs do not regulate exterior features not visible from a public way, interior features, landscaping, paint colors, and normal maintenance activities. The Study Committee also recommends exempting a long list of activities, such as new siding and alterations that don't change window or door locations and leave significant historical features intact; replacement windows (with certain conditions); all sorts of vents, heating and air conditioning equipment, solar panels, charging stations, most roofing materials, skylights, fences 4' high or less in front of a building or 6' high or less behind the front wall, and so on. On Cambridge Street, restoration of original storefronts would be encouraged, and zoning-compliant signs would be exempt from review.

Throughout the study process the committee has worked to ascertain the appropriate jurisdiction needed to protect historic resources without unduly burdening residents and property owners. The current proposal expresses the committee's desire to preserve significant buildings from demolition or inappropriate alterations, maintain original architectural detailing where existing, permit non-destructive alterations and allow for architectural diversity in new construction. A goal statement, ten secondary goals, design guidelines, and a proposed scope of jurisdiction have been drafted to guide the reviews by a future East Cambridge NCD commission.

If adopted, a neighborhood commission comprised of residents and property owners would be appointed to review applications for new construction, demolition, and some alterations on properties within the district. Demolition and new construction would always be subject to review, decisions on alterations would be either binding or non-binding based on the scope of work and if the property is included in the National Register of Historic Places (see map).

We encourage everyone to read through the Draft Preliminary Report of the Study Committee for a fuller understanding of the proposal. The Report, along with minutes and presentations of past Study Committee meetings, is available on the Cambridge Historical Commission webpage at: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/districtsHistoricProperties/eastcambridgencdstudy>.

We ask that each household complete the poll on the reverse of this page no later than [date]. The poll may be returned by mail (CHC, 831 Mass. Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., Cambridge, MA 02139), dropped off at the O'Connell Branch Library circulation desk, or you can respond by phone or online at [?]. The Study Committee will take the results into account as it prepares a recommendation to the Historical Commission; the Commission will then conduct a public hearing and formulate a recommendation to the City Council, which alone has the authority to enact the designation.

## East Cambridge NCD Poll

(Circle one response for each question)

- |  |            |           |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 1) Do you reside or own property within the proposed East Cambridge Neighborhood Conservation District study area? |            |           |
| I'm a property owner in the study area and I live there too  | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| I'm a property owner in the study area but I live elsewhere  | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| I live in the study area but don't own property there  | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| I do not live in the study area  | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| 2) Have you read the attached summary sheet and/or the ECNCD Preliminary report?                                   | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |
| 3) Are you in favor of designation of the East Cambridge NCD?  | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> |

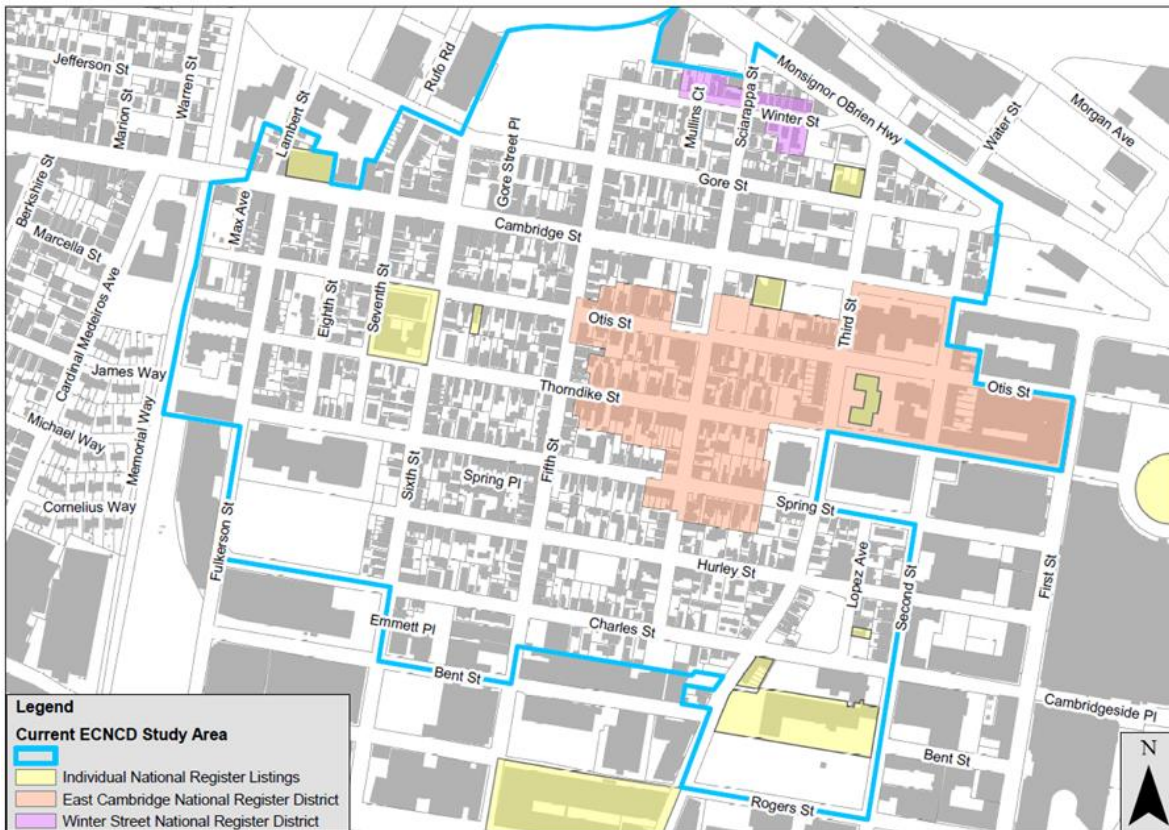
Comments or suggestions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Eric Hill at the Cambridge Historical Commission at [ehill@cambridgema.gov](mailto:ehill@cambridgema.gov) or by phone at 617-349-4688 with any questions related to the ECNCD proposal or poll.



East Cambridge Conservation District Study boundary. A larger version can be seen on our website.