

## City of Cambridge

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### News Release

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*For Immediate Release*

### **Cambridge Historical Commission Releases Publication, *Building Old Cambridge: Architecture and Development***

**Cambridge, MA, December 12, 2016** -- The Cambridge Historical Commission is pleased to announce the release of *Building Old Cambridge: Architecture and Development*. Published by The MIT Press, the book is now available at the Historical Commission office, in bookstores, and online. The cover price is \$49.95.

*Building Old Cambridge: Architecture and Development* is written by Susan E. Maycock, an architectural historian and Survey Director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, and Charles M. Sullivan, a city planner who has been the Commission's Executive Director since 1974. Extensively illustrated with many historic images never before published, the book is a comprehensive exploration of the city's history and architecture.

In preparation for over 20 years, *Building Old Cambridge* explores the neighborhood that grew up around the English settlement of Newtowne, founded as the capital of Massachusetts Bay in 1630, and Harvard College, established in 1636. By the mid-19th century, Cambridge comprised widely separated, named villages, and the original village near Harvard Square became known as Old Cambridge. Successive waves of newcomers—including West Indian planters who built great estates in the 1750s, suburbanites from the 1850s, and the annual flood of professors and students—enriched the life of the community and contributed to the layering of architectural styles that is evident in all corners of the neighborhood. The book examines the influence of the university and its often-wealthy students on the development of the Square itself, Old Cambridge's nationally renowned printing and publishing industries, and vital communities of African Americans and Irish immigrants.

Established in 1963 as the city's historic preservation agency, the Cambridge Historical Commission maintains an active publications program. The Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge published five neighborhood studies between 1965 and 1977. A new neighborhood history, East Cambridge, followed in 1988, and five volumes of oral histories appeared from 1997 to 2015.

Cambridge Historical Commission is located at 831 Massachusetts Ave., 2nd floor, Cambridge. For more information, call 617-349-4383, email Charles Sullivan, [csullivan@cambridgema.gov](mailto:csullivan@cambridgema.gov), or visit: <http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/aboutchc/chcbooks>

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