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## **Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge East Cambridge**

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# III

## Nonresidential Architecture

*East Cambridge is unusual for its rich concentration of civic buildings. Early in its history, Andrew Craigie and the Lechmere Point Corporation were successful in having the seat of Middlesex County, the largest and most prosperous in the commonwealth, moved to Lechmere's Point. County buildings have dominated the neighborhood ever since, and by the end of the 19th century they filled three entire blocks. No lots were set aside for municipal buildings, so schools and firehouses were sited later as circumstances dictated. Most of them are relatively modest, as are the commercial buildings along Cambridge Street. Because of its diverse population, East Cambridge did acquire many significant churches, ranging from a simple, 1826 Federal brick meetinghouse to a monumental 1874 stone Catholic church that represents the striving of the Irish Catholic community in East Cambridge.*