

# FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02125

71/ B/ 24

Boston-North

SMV.1237

Town Somerville

Place (neighborhood or village) Winter Hill

Address 50 Sargent Avenue

Historic Name Peabody Simmons House

Use: Present Single-family residence

Original Single-family residence

Date of Construction c.1870-1873

Source Somerville City Directories and Atlases

Style/Form Italianate/ L-shaped

Architect/Builder Peabody Simmons, contractor (attributed)

Exterior Material

Foundation Brick

Wall Wood shingles

Roof Asbestos shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures Barn

Major Alterations (with dates) Wood shingles replaced original clapboards at an undetermined date. The rear, one-story shed-roofed ell does not appear to be original. The roof deck atop the two-story ell appears to be of fairly recent vintage.

Condition Good

Moved ☐ yes ☒ no

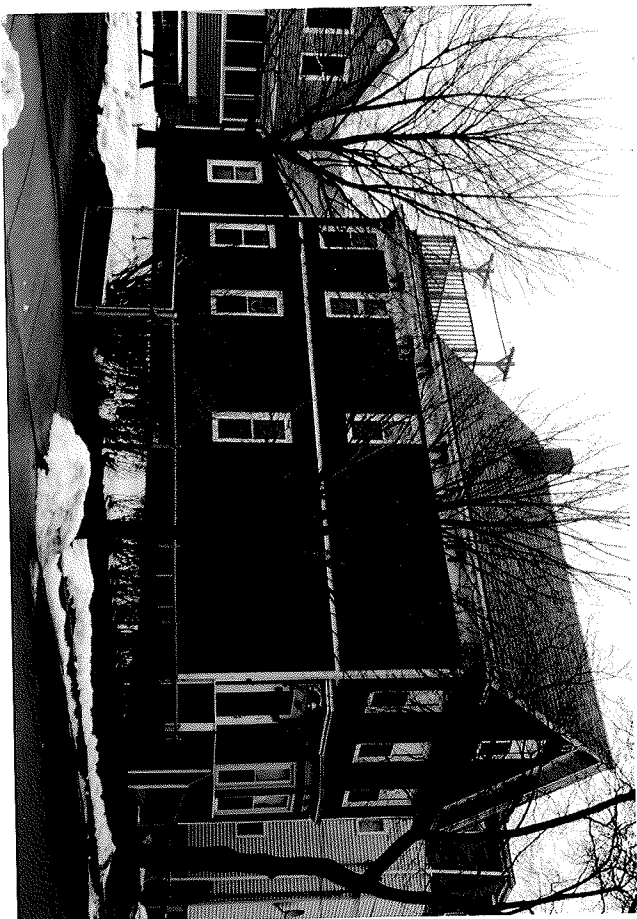
Acreage 3500 Square feet

Setting Situated next to a large undeveloped yard. The house faces almost directly on the street. Two courses of granite blocks enclose the extremely narrow frontage.

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Som.Historic Preservation Comm.

Date(month/day/year) 3/7/05





ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

**Situated next to a large, undeveloped side yard, 50 Sargent Avenue retains its original siting, form and saw-cut elements. Despite changes to its fabric, the house represents a side hall plan, Italianate vernacular house that is typical of c. late 1850s to early 1880s single-family housing located in Somerville, Cambridge as well as Boston's outer neighborhoods.** Possessing an L-shaped form, this house rises two stories from a brick basement to a gable roof with return eaves. Constructed of wood with wooden trim elements intact, the house's original clapboards were covered with wood shingles at an undetermined date. The main block measures three-bay-by-three bays. Projecting from the main block's rear wall is a two-story, two-bay-by-two-bay integral ell. A flat roof that supports a recently constructed porch encloses the ell. The rear wall of the two-story ell, in turn, is contiguous with a one-story, shed-roofed ell that probably represents a later addition.

The placement of the front door at the street gable suggests a side hall interior plan. A short flight of wooden steps leads to a front door that does not appear to be original. High, solid railings of fairly recent vintage enclose the steps. The front door is flanked by plain, vertical and horizontal boards, and is sheltered by a bracketed, typically Italianate-bracketed door hood. To the right of the entrance is a one-story polygonal bay with a bracketed cornice. In general, windows contain 1/1 double-hung replacement sash that replaced original 2/2 double-hung wood sash. Three standard size windows are ranged across the main facade's second story. A standard size window illuminates the attic. The main facade culminates in an attic with return eaves. The eaves are accented by saw cut paired brackets. The side walls exhibit string courses that separate the first and second stories.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

Built c.1870-1873, **50 Sargent Avenue** was one of the first built within the area bounded by Broadway and Walnut, Medford and School Streets. Sargent Avenue and adjacent house lots were set out during the 1860s. The H. F. Walling Map of Somerville (1857) shows the future site of 50 Sargent Street as part of a large undeveloped tract bounded by Medford, School, Broadway and Walnut Streets. This house provides physical evidence of Somerville at the time of its incorporation as a city; a city transitioning from an agrarian economy with industries along the Fitchburg and Boston and Lowell Railroad lines to a densely built-up, overwhelmingly residential community.

50 Sargent Avenue was probably built by and for Peabody Simmons, contractor. He is first listed here in 1873 when Sargent Street was called Mills Street (the street's namesake was the Mills who owned 29-31 Avenue's lot in 1874 and apparently lived outside the City). By 1884, 50 Sargent Street was numbered 13 Mills Street and was owned by a J. G. Pierce, another landlord who evidently lived outside of Somerville. By 1895, the house was owned by Gilman C. Dyer, traveling salesman. Dyer is listed in 1890 at 156 Walnut Street. Dyer and his wife Mary lived here until at least the early 1900s. By 1910, Mary Dyer, widow of Gilman C. is listed at this address. From the late 1910s until the early 1920s, number 50 was the residence of Ida M. and Charles H. Thompson. By the late 1920s, Lillian F. and Clyde W. McDuffee are listed at this address. Mr. McDuffee was a machinist who lived here until the early 1940s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Bromley, George, **Atlases of the City of Somerville**, 1895; 1900.

Draper, Martin, **Map of Somerville**, 1852.

Walling, H. F., **Map of Somerville**, 1857.

Hopkins, G. M., **Map of the City of Somerville**, 1874; 1884.

Mc Alester, Virginia & Lee. **Field Guide to American Houses**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Samuels, Edward A., **Somerville Past & Present**. Boston: Samuels & Kimball Company, 1897.

**Somerville City Directories**: 1869-70 to 1940.

Zellie, Carole, **Beyond the Neck: The Architecture and Development of Somerville, MA**, 1982, 1990.



Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

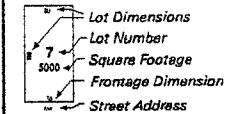


## City of Somerville Massachusetts



### Assessors Map

- Parcel Boundary
- Block Boundary
- Assessor Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- Railroad ROW



February 07, 2002

Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1993. Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

NOTE: The data represented on these maps indicate distances and deeded locations of cadastral boundaries in the City of Somerville. They are NOT survey data and should not be trusted as such.



# 71

**FORM B - BUILDING**

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02125

55/ D/ 1

Boston-North

SMV.1239

Town SomervillePlace (neighborhood or village) Winter HillAddress 237 School StreetHistoric Name Elisha Hopkins HouseUse: Present Single-family residenceOriginal Single-family residenceDate of Construction 1867Source Middlesex County DeedsStyle/Form Italianate vernacular/ L-shapedArchitect/Builder Undetermined**Exterior Material**Foundation StoneWall VinylRoof Asphalt shinglesOutbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

**Major Alterations (with dates)** A Queen Anne front porch and a two-story polygonal bay at the north facade were added at some point during the late nineteenth century. Original clapboards were obscured by vinyl siding after 1980.

Condition GoodMoved ☐ yes ☒ noAcreage 3,799 square feetRecorded by Edward W. GordonOrganization Som.Historic Preservation Comm.Date(month/day/year) 3/7/05

**Setting** Situated on corner lot in a densely built-up neighborhood of single-and two-family wooden houses.



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

**Prominently sited on a corner lot, 237 School Street typifies modest, uncomplicated post Civil War housing in Somerville. Built in 1867, clues to the house's style are concentrated in the main block. Exhibiting a symmetrical, polygonal-bayed main facade, oculus attic windows and center facade gable strike Italianate vernacular notes. The intact Queen Anne front porch represents a later, c. early 1900's addition. In terms of massing and fenestration, 237 School Street is similar in appearance to the trio of late 1860s houses at 59, 61 and 63 Putnam Street.**

Possessing an L-shaped form, this vinyl-sided wooden house is composed of a three-bay-by-one-bay main block and a two-story rear ell. Much of the house's interest lies in the design and elements of its full - length front porch. Probably added c.1905 when the second owner acquired the property, the porch features wooden platform supports slat-work railings and turned posts. The posts rise to the hip porch roof's entablature and culminate in saw-cut "gingerbread" spandrel brackets. Marking the entrance to the front porch is a small, low pedimented gable containing an incised, typically Queen Anne sun burst motif. Opening on to the porch, at the center entrance bay, the front door is flanked by Doric pilasters and surmounted by a molded, cornice-headed lintel. The main facade is enlivened by the one-story polygonal bays that flank the front door. Apron panels are in evidence beneath the bays' windows. In general, windows are standard size and contain 2/1 double-hung wood sash. In recent years, metal surrounds have replaced original wooden elements. At the main facade's second story are three widely spaced standard size windows. The placement of the middle window corresponds with the roof's broad center gable. The narrow side gables exhibit small, circular or oculus attic windows. A two-story polygonal

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

**Built c. 1867, for shipmaster Elisha Hopkins and his wife Jane, the origins of 237 School Street lie in the real estate speculation activities of coal dealers. In January of 1864, Charlotte M. and Charles Forster Jr. of Belmont, coal dealer, sold a large parcel of land to coal dealers Samuel Oakman and Benjamin W. Eldridge of Somerville for \$100. This parcel contained the future house lot of 237 School Street.**

Oakman and Eldridge, business partners in a coal dealership of the same name, were in a position to purchase the Forster's undeveloped land because their business required them to work "in the field." During the second half of the nineteenth century, persons engaged in certain trades became acquainted with land owners interested in selling off long-held tracts. In many cases, the economic and political tenor of the times precluded immediate construction on the ample tracts plotted for houses. Often it was several years before the first sounds of hammers and saws were heard on the sites. Coal dealers, as well as plumbers and persons in the building trades, had a distinct advantage over persons who commuted to jobs outside the community or were confined to working at a particular store or place of business.

In any event, Oakman proceeded to subdivide the tract that was roughly bounded by Broadway, Marshall, Oakland and School Street into at least thirteen house lots. In January, 1868, Jane and Elisha Hopkins paid Samuel Oakman \$4,000 for the house and 5,000 square foot lot at 237 School Street. Hopkins is variously listed in Somerville City

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

- Bromley, George, **Atlases of the City of Somerville**, 1895; 1900.  
 Draper, Martin, **Map of Somerville**, 1852; Walling, H. F., **Map of Charlestown, Somerville & Cambr.** 1857.  
 Hopkins, G. M., **Maps of the City of Somerville**, 1874; 1884.  
 Mc Alester, Virginia & Lee, **Field Guide to American Houses**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.  
 Middlesex Deeds, Vol. 1028, p.329, 1/30/1868.  
 Samuels, Edward A. **Somerville Past & Present**. Boston: Samuels & Kimball Company, 1897.  
**Somerville Assessing Department On-line Database.**  
**Somerville City Directories:** 1869-70 to 1940.  
 Zellie, Carole, **Beyond the Neck: The Architecture and Development of Somerville, MA**, 1982, 1990.



Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Town:  
Somerville, MA

Area (s)  
Winter Hill

Property Address:  
**237 School Street**

**Form No:**  
SMV.1239

Indicate each item on inventory form, continued below.

**Architectural Description**

bay projects from the north wall.

**Historical Narrative**

Directories between the late 1860s and early 1900s as a "shipmaster", "mariner" and "master mariner."

The Hopkins' house was purchased by Charles W. Thompson, music publisher of Boston, between 1903 and 1910. Thompson lived here until his death in March, 1925. Thompson's widow Josephine is listed at this address until at least the early 1930s. By 1940, the house was occupied by John B. Rice, electrical welder.

**Staple to inventory form at bottom**

237 SCHOOL STREET SMV. 1224

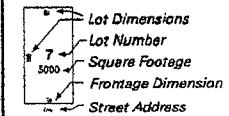


City of  
**Somerville**  
Massachusetts



**Assessors Map**

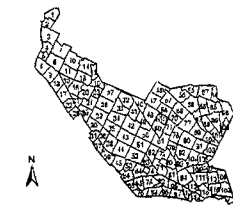
- Parcel Boundary
- - - Block Boundary
- ... Assessor Map Boundary
- ~~~~~ Water Body
- Building
- ▨ Railroad ROW



1" = 80'  
February 07, 2002

Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1993; Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

NOTE: The data represented on these maps indicate distances and desired locations of cadastral boundaries in the City of Somerville. They are NOT survey data and should not be treated as such.



**59**

**FORM B - BUILDING**

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission

220 Morrissey Boulevard

Boston, Massachusetts 02125

60/ D/ 27

Boston-North

SMV.1238

Town SomervillePlace (neighborhood or village) Central HillAddress 193 School StreetHistoric Name Nathaniel T. Babb HouseUse: Present Three-familyOriginal Single-family residenceDate of Construction c.1870Source Somerville Maps and AtlasesStyle/Form Mansard / RectangularArchitect/Builder Undetermined**Exterior Material**Foundation Granite blockWall Asbestos shinglesRoof Slate shinglesOutbuildings/Secondary Structures Two- car concrete block garage.Major Alterations (with dates) Asphalt shingles replaced original clapboards c. mid 20th century. Converted from a single-to two-family around 1920.Condition GoodMoved ☐ yes ☒ noAcreage 3,373 square feetSetting Situated on level land at northern base of Central Hill. Earliest component in streetscape of 1880s and 1890s single and two family houses.Recorded by Edward W. GordonOrganization Som. Historic Preservation Comm.Date(month/day/year) 3/7/05

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ see continuation sheet

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

**Dating to c. 1870, 193 School Street is a solid example of mansard-roofed single-family housing built "on spec" by major local developers.** Measuring three-bays-by-two-bays, this house rises two stories from a granite block basement to a hip on mansard roof. The type of roof represents the last stage in the mansard roof's evolution from low-slung bell cast profile roof through more steeply pitched straight-sided mansard to the hip-on-mansard. Projecting from the rear of the building is a two-story ell.

Although the building's original clapboards have been covered by asphalt shingles, the house retains integrity of siting, form and elements. Situated on the north side of a driveway that leads to a c.1930s or 40s concrete block garage, this house's main facade consists of a flat entrance bay and a two-story polygonal bay. Access to the front door is gained via a short flight of steps that leads to a small wooden hip roofed porch. Chamfered porch posts support a bracketed hip roof. A standard size window is located at the second story entrance bay. In general windows are fully enframed with raised moldings at the edges of the surrounds. Windows contain 1/1 ---and in several cases, original 2/2 double-hung wood sash. The front door is flanked by narrow sidelights with solid lower panels. To the left of the entrance, situated close to the porch is a standard size window. To the right of the door is a generously proportioned, two-story polygonal bay. This bay culminates in a deep, molded cornice. The main and side walls culminate in frieze and side boards that are sheltered by deep eaves. Projecting from the main and side roof slopes of the mansard are pairs of dormers. These dormers exhibit roofs with small pointed gables. Rising from the center of the hipped segment of the roof is a tall and narrow chimney.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

**193 School Street is of historical interest as a house that was built as income-producing property for Rufus Stickney and John R. Poor. Known nation-wide for the quality of their mustards, Stickney and Poor operated a factory on Spice Street in Charlestown. Stickney and Poor succeeded in developing an area between School and Thurston Streets that had been a proposed development since the early 1850s.** The streets and lots of this area on the north side of Central Hill existed on paper by 1853, but the would-be developer, Samuel C. Chamberlain, backed out of the project and house construction was delayed until the 1870s and 1880s. The 1857 H. F. Walling Map shows the large tract bounded by School, Broadway, Walnut and Medford Streets as essentially devoid of buildings.

After the Civil War, the Chamberlain tract passed to Rufus B. Stickney of Stickney and Poor. 193 Chamberlain Street has the distinction of being the first house built on the 10-lot tract bordered by Medford, School, Howe and Marshall Streets. The house is labeled Rufus B. Stickney on both the 1874 and 1884 Somerville Atlases. Stickney also owned lots on both sides of Dartmouth Street between Medford Street and Broadway as well as lots bordering Thurston Street. Stickney, himself, lived nearby in a house at the corner of Sycamore and Broadway.

Between 1891 and at least 1910 this house was the residence of salesman Nathaniel T. Babb. He commuted to work at 1 Commercial Street in Boston. In 1890, Babb is listed at 9 Broadway in East Somerville.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Bromley, George, **Atlases of the City of Somerville**, 1895, 1900.  
 Draper, Martin, **Map of Somerville**, 1852; H. F. Walling Map of Charlestown, Somerville and Cambridge.  
 Hopkins, G. M., **Map of the City of Somerville**, 1874; 1884.  
 Mc Alester, Virginia & Lee. **Field Guide to American Houses**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.  
 Jones, William Preble, **Somerville Fifty Years Ago**, Somerville: William Preble Jones, Publisher, 1894.  
 Samuels, Edward A. **Somerville Past & Present**. Boston: Samuels & Kimball Company, 1897.  
**Somerville Assessor's Department On Line Database.**  
**Somerville City Directories:** 1869-70 to 1940.  
 Zellie, Carol, **Beyond the Neck: The Architecture and Development of Somerville, MA**, 1982, 1990.



Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Town:  
Somerville, MA

Area(s):  
Central Hill

Property Address:  
**193 School Street**

**Form No:**  
SMV.1238

Indicate each item on inventory form, continued below.

**Historical Narrative**

William Preble Jones in **Somerville Fifty Years Ago** noted that Babb's oldest daughter, Evelyn, married George H. Dresser, one of the early "high officials" of the New England Telephone Company. Another daughter married Emery Smith, son of Hiram D. Smith "one of the city fathers."

By 1910, Evelyn and George Dresser were living here along with Nathaniel T. Babb. In 1915, Dresser is listed as "General Superintendant" 50 Oliver Street, Boston, while Nathaniel T. Babb is still listed here as a salesman. By 1924, the Babb-Dressers had departed the premises and in their stead were Annie W. Nason and Daniel A. Nason, dentist, and Jeanette and George Cooper, clerk. The presence of both the Nasons and Coopers at 193 School Street suggest that it was converted to a two-family dwelling c. early 1920s--if it hadn't already achieved this status during the Babb/ Dresser occupancy. By the late 1920's Mabel M. and Jacob K. Vart, stone cutter, along with Mrs. Nellie Monahan. By 1940, Marie and William Arensbach, an automobile mechanic, lived here along with Mrs. Monahan.

**Staple to inventory form at bottom**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community      Property Address  
SOMERVILLE, MA      193 SCHOOL STREET

Area(s)      Form No.  
Central Hill

	SMV.1238
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### National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☐ Individually eligible      ☒ Eligible **only** in a historic district
- ☐ Contributing to a potential historic district      ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria:    ☒ A    ☐ B    ☒ C    ☐ D

Criteria Considerations:    ☐ A    ☐ B    ☐ C    ☐ D    ☐ E    ☐ F    ☐ G

Statement of Significance by Edward W. Goh  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

**193 School Street is eligible for listing on the N. R. H. P. only with the context of an historic district.**


**193 School Street satisfies criteria A. of the N. R. H. P. as a solid, mostly intact example of c. early 1870s mansard housing in Somerville.**

**193 School Street satisfies criteria C because of its early development and ownership by Rufus Stickney, supplier of spices and mustard to the New England region. Built around 1870, the house provides a physical link with Somerville's early years as an incorporated municipality (1872).**

193 School Street SMV. 1238



City of  
**Somerville**  
Massachusetts



## Assessors Map

— Parcel Boundary

— Block Boundary

--- Assessor Map Boundary

Water Body

Building

Railroad ROW


Lot Dimensions

Lot Number

Square Footage

Frontage Dimension

Street Address




0 30 60 Feet

1" = 80'

February 07, 2002

Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company's data, 1993. Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

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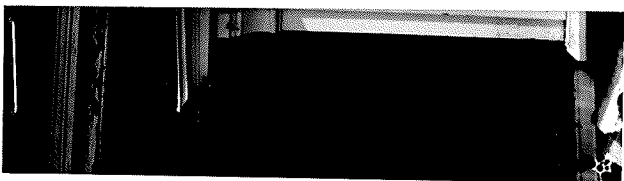
# 60

# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD



photo on  
side of  
foundation



to the  
wall  
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Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
104-D-27	Boston North		1225

Town Somerville

Place (neighborhood or village) East Somerville

Address 70 Pearl St.

Historic Name Burke House

Uses: Present residential

Original residential

Date of Construction 1870-1871

Source deeds and directories

Style/Form Mansard/center hall

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim vinyl/wood

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates) remodeled 2005  
rear deck added

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 5424 sq.ft.

Setting corner lot in dense

residential district

Recorded by Arthur Krim

Organization Somerville Hist.Presv.Comm.

Date (month/year) August 2005

# BUILDING FORM

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

70 Pearl Street

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The suburban house at 70 Pearl Street, corner of Franklin Street, was built in 1870-1871 by an unknown housewright for Edward Burke as the original owner. The house follows a formal center hall plan of two stories with a third story mansard roof, set on a brick foundation. The design is Mansard Style as seen in the mansard roof with original pattern slate shingles and pedimented dormers, including a double center dormer above the entrance portico. The facade is treated as formal design with bay windows on the first floor, a center portico with champhered posts, and a projecting second story bay set above the entrance portico.

Although resided, the Burke house is notable on a corner lot, retaining its original features as a Mansard design of the post-Civil War period, that defines the suburban residential of Pearl Street.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

☐ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The suburban house at 70 Pearl Street, corner of Franklin Street, is dated 1870-1871 by deed and directory research to Edward Burke as the original owner. The corner lot was purchased in 1870 by Burke, who is listed in the 1871 Directory as a shipmaster, likely in Charlestown, with a house at the corner of Franklin and Pearl Streets, thus confirming construction to 1870-1871. The house is owned by Burke on the 1874 and 1884 Atlases. In 1895 the house is owned by Samuel J. Cutter, who listed in the 1905 Directory as a Boston cotton merchant. No listing is given for 1925, while in 1940 the house is shown to John Tawr.

The Burke house is of note as a substantial residence of a Boston shipmaster, that defines the suburban character of Pearl Street after the Civil War.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Atlas of Somerville. Philadelphia: J.M. Hopkins, 1874, 1884.

Atlas of Somerville. Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley, 1895.

Middlesex County Deeds. 844-391 (1860), 1174-161 (1870).

Somerville Directory. Boston: W.A. Greenough, 1871-1940.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

City of  
**Somerville**  
Massachusetts



# Assessors Map

- Parcel Boundary
- Block Boundary
- Assessor Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- ▨ Railroad ROW

- Lot Dimensions
- Lot Number
- Square Footage
- Frontage Dimension
- Street Address



Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1995; Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

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# 104



CDM

70 Pearl St. SMV.1225

# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
104-C-7	Boston North		1226

Town Somerville

Place (neighborhood or village) East Somerville

Address 94 Pearl St.

Historic Name Davis House

Uses: Present residential

Original residential

Date of Construction 1870-1871

Source deeds and directories

Style/Form Mansard/suburban sidehall

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim vinyl/wood

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage 6800 sq.ft.

Setting corner lot in dense

residential district

Recorded by Arthur Krim

Organization Somerville Hist.Presv.Comm.

Date (month/year) August 2005



photo on  
and  
side of  
location

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dicate

see attached map

# BUILDING FORM

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

94 Pearl St.

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The suburban house at 94 Pearl Street, corner of Hillside Avenue, was built in 1870-1871 by an unknown housewright, for Oliver J. Davis as the original owner. The house follows a suburban side hall plan of two stories with a third story mansard roof, set on a brick foundation. The design is of Mansard Style as seen in the mansard roof with original slate shingles and pedimented dormer windows. Other period features include the original scrolled bracket entry hood and the bay windows, with a wooden storm door of the period.

Although resided, the Davis house is notable for its original Mansard features as a design of the post-Civil War period, that defines the residential character of Pearl Street.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

☐ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The suburban house at 94 Pearl Street, corner of Hillside Avenue, is dated 1870-1871 by deed and directory research to Oliver J. Davis as the original owner. The suburban lot was purchased in 1869 and mortgaged in 1870 as a vacant lot, with Davis listed in the 1871 Directory as a roundtimer with a house on Pearl Street, thus confirming construction 1870-1871. Davis is shown as the owner on the 1874 and 1884 Atlases. In 1895 the house is owned by J.H. Butler as Davis trustee, with Charles S. Davis listed in 1905 as manager at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Davis continues as owner in 1925 and again in 1940 with his wife Lillian.

The Davis house is notable as a residence of the post-Civil War period that defined the suburban character of Pearl Street through World War II.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Atlas of Somerville. Philadelphia: J.M. Hopkins, 1874, 1884.  
Atlas of Somerville. Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley, 1895.  
Middlesex County Deeds. 1065-194 (1869), 1121-81 (1870).  
Somerville Directory. Boston: W.A. Greenough, 1871-1940.

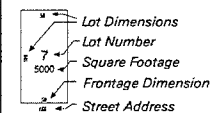
☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

City of  
**Somerville**  
Massachusetts



# Assessors Map

- Parcel Boundary
- Block Boundary
- Assessor Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- Railroad ROW



1" = 80'

January 3, 2001

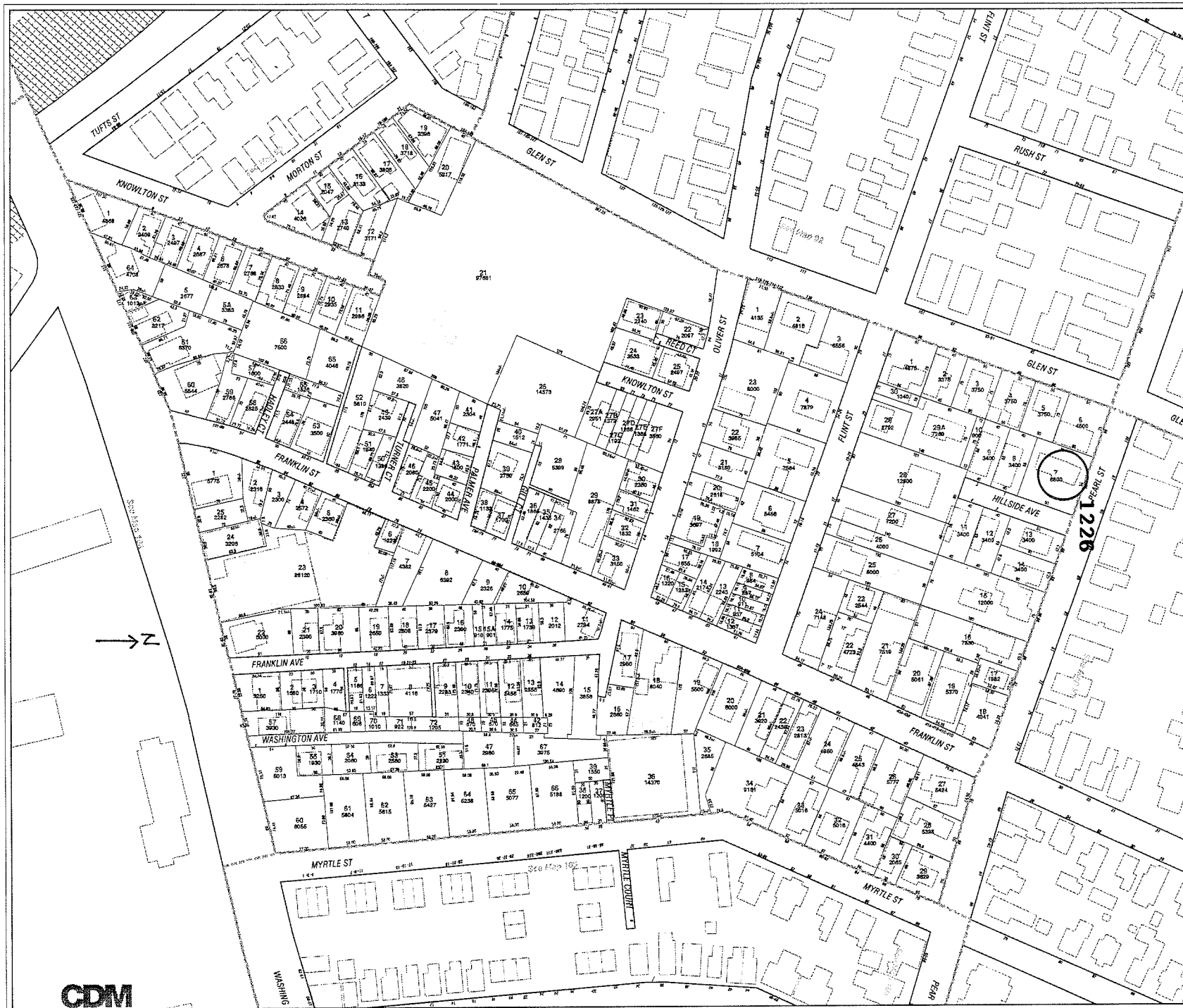
Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1995. Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

NOTE: The data represented on these maps indicate distances and deeded locations of cadastral boundaries in the City of Somerville. They are NOT survey data and should not be treated as such.



# 104

94 Pearl St. SNV.1226



CDM

**FORM B - BUILDING**

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

35/ F/ 8

Boston -North

SMV.623,  
SMV. 1157Town SomervillePlace (neighborhood or village) Spring HillAddress 9 Brastow Avenue and 9R Brastow AvenueHistoric Name Charles E. Sewall House and StableUse: Present 9=Two- family residence; 9R= residenceOriginal 9=Two -family residence 9R=stableDate of Construction 9=1873; 9R=1873Source Somerville Atlases and City DirectoriesStyle/Form Italianate mansard/ Rectangular; stable=rectangularArchitect/Builder Undetermined**Exterior Material**Foundation 9=Stone; 9R=stoneWall Asphalt shingles; 9R=clapboards & wood shinglesRoof Slate shingles; 9R=Asphalt shinglesOutbuildings/Secondary Structures Stable at rear of house  
converted to a residential unit.Major Alterations (with dates) Very intact. Modern wooden  
porches and stairways have been added to the house's rear wall.Condition GoodMoved ☐ yes ☒ noAcreage 6,650 Square feetSetting Situated on densely built up residential street. Overlooks  
grass-covered front yard. Wooden stable still extant at rear  
(converted to residential unit).Recorded by Edward W. GordonOrganization Som. Historic Preservation Comm.Date(month/day/year) 3/7/05

## BUILDING FORM

SMV.623  
SMV. 1157

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

**9 Brastow Avenue ranks among the most stylish and substantial examples of Second Empire single family housing in Somerville. This house is noteworthy for the pleasing proportions of its main block, intact front porch as well as its many intact Italianate trim elements. Situated near Spring Hill's summit, this house once had unobstructed views of Summer Street.**

Possessing a rectangular, three-bay-by-two-bay form, asphalt shingles replaced clapboards as the building's sheathing material at some point during the mid twentieth century. The house's wooden trim elements remain intact. The house rises two stories from a stone basement to a steeply, pitched, straight-sided mansard roof. Narrow corner boards set off the corners of the main block. At the main facade, the corner boards rise to wooden scroll work ornamentation that is flush with the fascia board. The fascia and side boards are overlaid with saw cut brackets. These brackets support the mansard's molded cornice. The mansard retains its original slate shingles. Three dormer windows are in evidence at the main and rear facades of the mansard while pairs of dormers rise from the side roof slopes. The dormers are of interest for their unusually ornate drip cap lintels that shelter circular boss ornament.

The placement of the main entrance suggests a center hall interior plan. Access to the entrance porch is provided by a short flight four granite block steps. The front porch exhibits chamfered posts that support a low hip roof. Small brackets interspersed between single large brackets accent the roof's molded entablature. Probably installed around 1900, the front door is characterized by a single, tall pane of glass that surmounts a pair of panels set off

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

**Together with its gable roofed and belvedere-surmounted stable, this early 1870s house provides a glimpse of Spring Hill before the City's late nineteenth and early twentieth century building boom resulted in more densely built-up streetscapes. It was built in 1873 for Charles E. Sewall, who was variously listed in City Directories as an expressman and clerk based at 36 Court Square, Boston. This house provides physical evidence of the faith and optimism that men like Charles E. Sewall had in the newly incorporated City of Somerville (1872). By that time most of the young city's population was concentrated east of Lowell Street. Located between Lowell and Cedar Street. Brastow Avenue had only recently been set out, with this being the first house on this block-long east-west thoroughfare. Brastow Avenue was named for Somerville's first Mayor George O. Brastow who developed much of Spring Hill between Central and Belmont street's in the 1840s and lived at 152 Summer Street (demolished).**

Charles E. Sewall moved from Cross Street near Everett Avenue in East Somerville to 9 Brastow Avenue in 1873. The address of Sewall's new house is listed in mid 1870s Somerville City Directories as "Brastow Avenue opposite the Morse School." Although the Morse School site at Summer and Craigie Streets might presently seem far removed from Brastow Avenue, in the 1870s, Sewall would have had an unobstructed view of the school across four undeveloped lots labeled Fitzgerald on the 1874 Atlas. Sewall, himself, owned one lot to the east of his house as well as two lots to the west.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ see continuation sheet

Bromley, George, **Atlases of the City of Somerville**, 1895;1900.  
Draper, Martin, **Map of Somerville**, 1852; Walling, H. F, **Map of Charlestown, Somerville & Cambridge**, 1857.  
Hopkins, G. M., **Maps of the City of Somerville**, 1874; 1884.  
Mc Alester, Virginia & Lee, **Field Guide to American Houses**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.  
Samuels, Edward A., **Somerville Past & Present**. Boston: Samuels & Kimball Company, 1897.  
**Somerville, MA Assessing Department On Line Database.**  
**Somerville City Directories: 1869-70 to 1940; Somerville Water Department Drain Pipe records.**  
Zellie, Carole, **Beyond the Neck: The Architecture and Development of Somerville, MA**, 1982, 1990.



Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Town:  
Somerville, MA

Area (s)  
Spring Hill

Property address:  
**9 & 9R Brastow Avenue**

Form No:  
SMV.623, SMV 1157

Indicate each item on inventory form, continued below.

**Architectural Description** by raised moldings. The front door is flanked by sidelights with solid lower panels surmounted by oval panes of glass. Above the front door is a tripartite transom. The front porch is flanked by windows exhibiting enframements and 2/ 2 double hung wood sash that are characteristic throughout the house's elevations. In general, windows are fully enframed, surmounted by drip mold lintels and in the case of the windows at the main facade, are flanked by louvered shutters. The window enframements are characterized by subtle variations in lintel treatments with first story windows exhibiting small pointed arches containing diamond - shaped ornamentation, while the lintels of the upper floors exhibit small round arches containing a small circular boss.

At the rear of the property is a late nineteenth century stable that has been converted into a two-car garage and loft unit. The stable rises two stories to a gable roof. Clad with clapboards, scalloped wooden shingles are in evidence at the apex of the gable. At the center of the east gable is a hay loft door.

**Historical Narrative** To the west of the Sewall lots, on the north side of Brastow, were seven undeveloped lots owned by T. J. and B. J McCormack. The lots on the south side of Brastow Avenue were owned by the Mc Cormacks and W.H.Brine along with Fitzgerald. Sewall lived at 9 Brastow avenue until 1878. By the mid 1880s, 9 Brastow Avenue's lot was owned by an unidentified bank. Between the late 1880s and the early 1910s, the house was owned by contractor Charles A. Mongan. Mongan and his wife Annie E. Mongan moved to 9 Brastow Avenue from Porter Street near Brastow Avenue. By 1910, only Annie Mongan is listed here.

Later owners of 9 Brastow Avenue included William O. Hurwitz, horse dealer, as well as his wife Esther Hurwitz. During the 1930s and 1940s, the William B. Ward family is listed at this address. William B.Ward was a printer.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community  
SOMERVILLE, MA

Property Address  
9 BRASTOW AVENUE

Area(s) Form No.  
Spring Hill

☐ SMV.1157

### National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible only in a historic district  
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

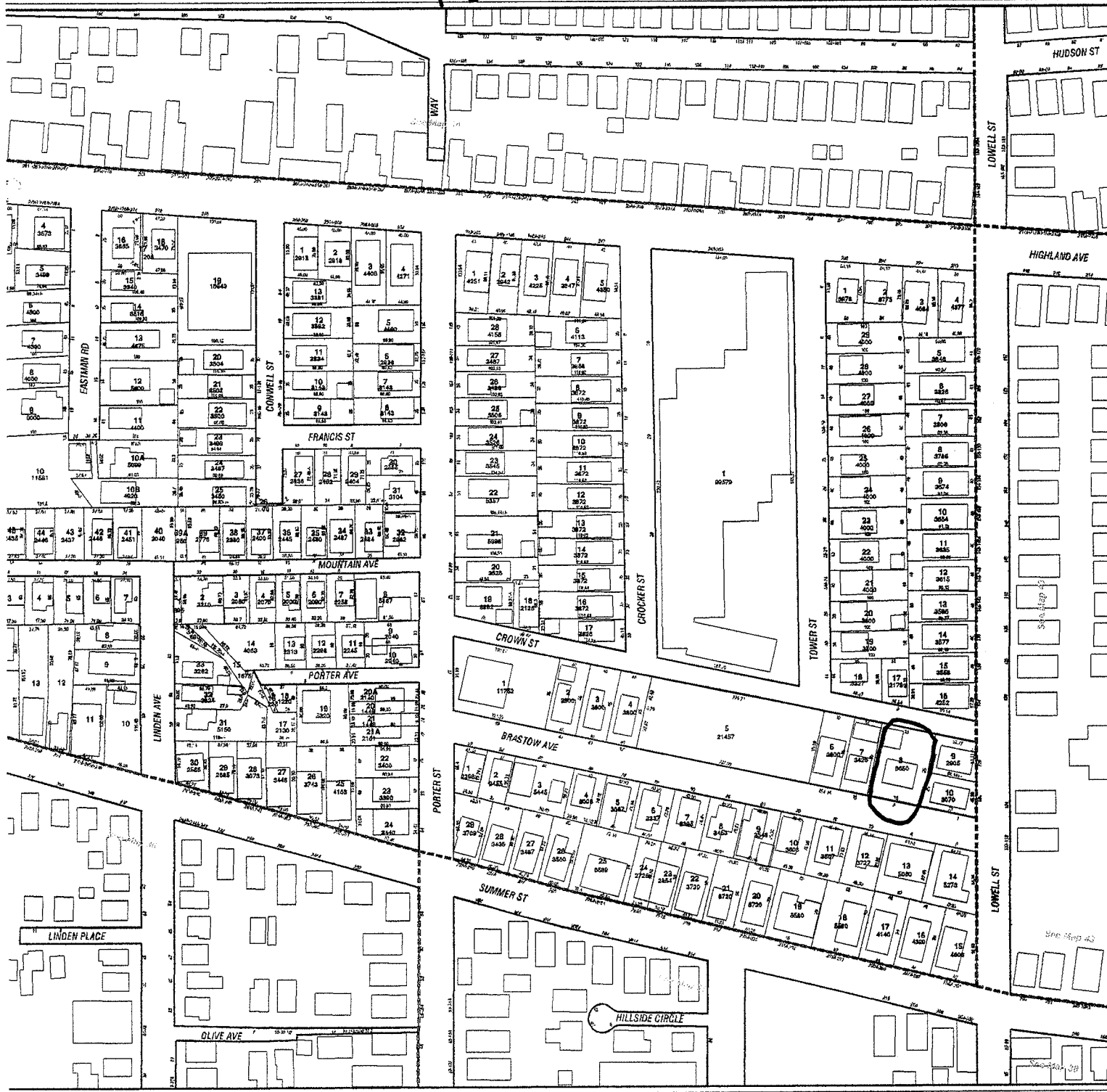
Statement of Significance by Edward W. Gordon  
*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

**9 Brastow Avenue is eligible for individual listing on the N. R. H. P.**

**Together with its gable roofed and belvedere-surmounted stable, this early 1870s house provides a glimpse of Spring Hill before the City's late nineteenth and early twentieth century building boom resulted in more densely built-up streetscapes. Built in 1873 for Charles E. Sewall, variously listed in City Directories as an expressman and clerk based at 36 Court Square, Boston. This house provides physical evidence of the faith and optimism men like Charles E. Sewall had in the newly incorporated City of Somerville (1872). 9 Brastow Avenue satisfies criteria A of the N. R. H. P.**

**9 Brastow Avenue satisfies criteria C of the N. R. H. P. as one of the most stylish and substantial examples of Second Empire single family housing in Somerville. This house is noteworthy for the pleasing proportions of its main block, intact front porch as well as its many intact Italianate trim elements. Completing this image of domestic life in early 1870s Somerville is a recently rehabilitated stable at the rear of the building.**

9 BRASTOW AVENUE SMV. 623 and SMV. 1157 (stable)



City of  
**Somerville**  
Massachusetts



**Assessors Map**

- Parcel Boundary
- Block Boundary
- Assessor Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- ▨ Railroad ROW

- Lot Dimensions
- Lot Number
- Square Footage
- Frontage Dimension
- Street Address

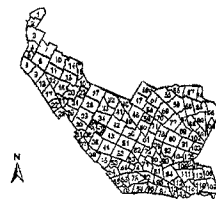


1" = 80'

February 07, 2002

Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1992. Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

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**35**

**FORM B - BUILDING**

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

44/ B/ 21

Boston-North

AQ

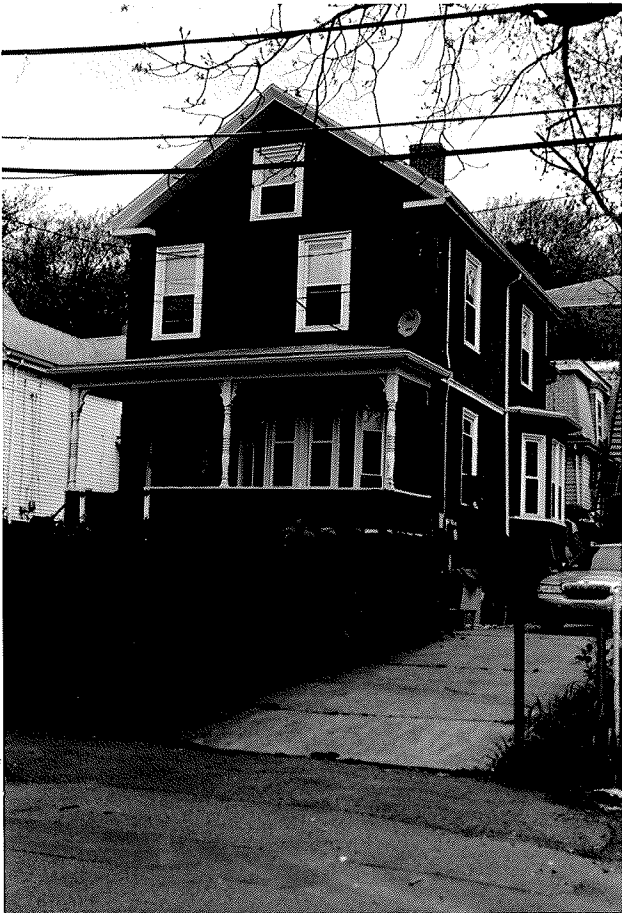
SMV.1041

Town SomervillePlace (neighborhood or village) Spring HillAddress 21-23 Elm PlaceHistoric Name Josiah D. Johnson HouseUse: Present Single-family residenceOriginal Single-family residenceDate of Construction 1869-1870Source Middlesex County Deeds and Somerville City DirectoryStyle/Form Italianate/ L-shapedArchitect/Builder Undetermined**Exterior Material**Foundation BrickWall Asphalt shinglesRoof Asphalt shinglesOutbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

Major Alterations (with dates) Queen Anne porch added c. 1900. The broad polygonal bay to the right of the entrance may represent a late nineteenth century addition. Modern wooden porch addition at ell's east wall.

Condition GoodMoved ☐ yes ☒ noAcreage 3,000+ square feetRecorded by Edward W. GordonOrganization: Som. Historic Preservation Comm.Date(month/day/year) 3/7/05

Setting Located on north side of quiet cul-de-sac. Set back facing ample, hedge-bordered front yard. Overlooks Craftsman two-family and adjacent on west to compact Queen Anne residence. A driveway on the east side of the property leads to the rear, kitchen ell.



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

**Set back overlooking a relatively ample hedge-bordered front yard, this house is located on the north side of the quiet cul-de-sac called Elm Place. 21-23 Elm Place is of interest as a modest example of an end gable Italianate house with a later (c. 1890s) Queen Anne front porch. Built c. 1869-1870, this house is representative of the type of modest, vernacular dwelling that was built in established neighborhoods, as well as undeveloped sections of Somerville.**

Although altered by modern sheathing materials, this residence retains integrity of siting, and of porch elements. This wooden building encompasses a two-bay-by-two-bay main block and a one-bay-by-one-bay rear ell. Rising two stories from a brick basement to a gable roof with return eaves, these roof eaves shelter a standard size attic window. Like all of the windows in this building recent double-hung metal sash with vinyl surrounds have replaced original 2/2 double-hung wood sash.

Projecting from the first story is a full-length front porch that rests on a platform enclosed by lattice-work screens. The platform supports solid shingle-covered railings. Rising from the railings are original, turned and saw cut bracket- accented posts that support a low, modified hip roof. Characterized by a large square glass pane with solid lower panels, the turn-of-the-twentieth century front door may have been added when the front porch was constructed. Simple wooden vertical and horizontal enframements set off the front door. To the right of the entrance is a broad polygonal bay. A narrow and probably original polygonal bay projects from the northern half of the main block's driveway (east) elevation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

**Built in 1869-1870, during the first administration of President Ulysses S. Grant, 21-23 Elm Street provides physical evidence documenting the second wave of house construction that occurred on the south slope of Spring Hill during the period of 1865-1873. Completed on the eve of Somerville's incorporation as a City (1872) this house's modest scale was typical of many houses built in Somerville around 1870.**

The earliest identifiable owner of 21-23 Elm Street is Josiah D. Johnson, (real estate?) broker. In April, 1869, he purchased this property while it was still undeveloped from real estate speculator John H. Potter for \$2400. Originally, this house's lot encompassed 11,390 square feet or over three times its present size. In other words Johnson purchased three lots, two of which were located between numbers 21-23 Elm and Harvard Street, to the east. Potter had purchased these lots from a P. R. Ridgeway in 1866. Johnson resided at 21-23 Elm Street until May of 1886. At that time he sold the premises to Henrietta and Henry C. Parker for \$5,000. The Parkers, in turn, sold this property to Walter C. Hook and his wife, Susie I. Hook in April of 1890 for \$5,000. The Hooks lived here until the early 1900s. By the 1920s, the house's two units were occupied by Mary H. and Henry C. Noyes, inspector, as well as father and son roofers: the John J. O' Connors Sr. and Jr. John Sr.'s wife Catherine also lived here. By 1940, the retired Noyes and O'Connor were still in residence at 21-23 Elm Street.

**Already listed on the N. R. H. P. as part of the Spring Hill Historic District**

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Bromley, George, **Atlases of the City of Somerville**, 1895; 1900.  
 Draper, Martin, **Map of Somerville**, 1852; Walling, H. F. , **Map of Somerville**, 1857.  
 Hopkins, G. M., **Maps of the City of Somerville**, 1874 & 1884.  
 Mc Alester, Virginia & Lee. **Field Guide to American Houses**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.  
 Middlesex County Deeds: Vol. 1078; p.564, 4/30, 1869; Vol. 1746; p.555, 1886, 5/ 3/1886 and Vol. 1968; p.574, 4/25/1890.  
 Samuels, Edward A. **Somerville Past & Present**. Boston: Samuels & Kimball Company, 1897.  
**Somerville Assessing Department On-line Database; Somerville City Directories**: 1869-70 to 1940.  
 Zellie, Carole, **Beyond the Neck: The Architecture and Development of Somerville, MA**, 1982, 1990.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

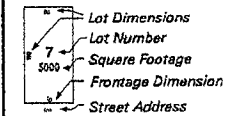


City of  
**Somerville**  
Massachusetts



**Assessors Map**

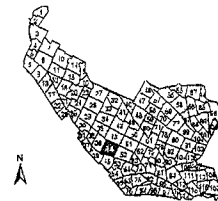
- Parcel Boundary
- Block Boundary
- - - Assessor Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- ▨ Railroad ROW



February 07, 2002

Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1993. Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

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**44**



# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
103-G-16	Boston North		583

Town Somerville

Place (neighborhood or village) East Somerville

Address 75 Florence St.

Historic Name T. Buffam House

Uses: Present residential

Original residential

Date of Construction 1866-1867

Source deeds and tax lists

Style/Form Italianate/suburban sidehall

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim vinyl/wood

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates) resided ca.1990

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 2623 sq.ft.

Setting tight lot in dense

residential district

Recorded by Arthur Krim

Organization Somerville Hist.Presv.Comm.

Date (month/year) August 2005

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see attached map

# BUILDING FORM

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

75 Florence St.

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The suburban house at 75 Florence Street was built in 1866-1867 by an unknown housewright for Thomas J. Buffam as the original owner. The house follows a standard suburban side hall plan of two and a half stories, set on a brick foundation. The design is Italianate Style as seen in the short return gable cornice and the two story facade bay window. Recent residing has removed other period details, with the entrance porch enclosed in Neo-Georgian Style.

Although modified, the Buffam house retains its profile as a suburban design of the post-Civil War period, maintaining the residential character of Florence Street.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

☐ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The suburban house at 75 Florence Street is dated 1866-1867 by tax and deed research to Thomas J. Buffam as the original owner. The lot was sold to Amelia Buffam, wife of Thomas, in 1867 "with buildings," with Thomas Buffam first assessed at \$9.60 in 1867, suggesting the house was constructed in 1866-1867. An 1871 deed transfer to Amelia Buffam confirms the house on site, with "T.J. Buffam" shown as the owner on the 1874 Atlas. In 1876 Buffam is listed as a Boston dry goods agent, likely taking the Broadway horse cars to downtown Boston. The house remained in the Buffam family through 1903, when Dr. Herbert B. Buffam is listed at the address. In 1925 the house is listed to Richard P. Howard, a US Navy storekeeper in Charlestown with his wife Elinor, also listed through 1940.

The Buffam house is of historic note as a well preserved residence, that defines the suburban character of East Somerville in the post-Civil War period.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

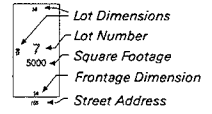
- Atlas of Somerville. Philadelphia: J.M. Hopkins, 1874, 1884.  
Atlas of Somerville. Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley, 1895.  
Middlesex County Deeds. 101 2-204 (1867), 1172-325 (1871),  
1900-324 (1889), 2171-600 (1895).  
Somerville Directory. Boston: W.A. Greenough, 1871-1940.  
Somerville Tax Lists. Somerville: by the town 1866-1871.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*



# Assessors Map

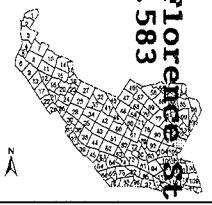
- Parcel Boundary
- Block Boundary
- Assessor Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- Railroad ROW



January 3, 2001

Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1995. Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

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75 Florence St  
SMV.583

# 103



CDM

# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD



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see attached map

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
105-A-36- <sup>37</sup>	Boston North		1217

Town Somerville

Place (neighborhood or village) East Somerville

Address 37-39 Myrtle St.

Historic Name Mullay Double House

Uses: Present residential

Original residential

Date of Construction 1870-1871

Source deeds and atlases

Style/Form Mansard/double house

Architect/Builder unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim vinyl/wood

Roof asphalt

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Major Alterations (with dates) resided late 20thC.

Condition good/fair

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 2204 sq.ft.

Setting tight corner lot in dense

residential district

Recorded by Arthur Krim

Organization Somerville Hist.Presv.Comm.

Date (month/year) August 2005

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

37-39 Myrtle St.

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The double house at 37-39 Myrtle Street, corner of Myrtle Court, was built in 1870-1871 by an unknown builder for Thomas Mullay as the original owner. The building follows a double house plan of two stories with a third story mansard roof, set on a high foundation. The design is of simple Mansard Style as seen in the straight mansard roof with lintel capped dormers. The distinctive period features are the projecting bay windows of the second story and the bracketed entry hood of the inset entrance. The building has been recently resided, with the right side retaining original wood details on the dormers and bay window. The Mullay double house is of note as a well preserved tenement of the post-Civil War period built on the lower slope of Myrtle Street in East Somerville.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

☐ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The double house at 37-39 Myrtle Street, corner of Myrtle Court, is dated 1870-1871 by deed and atlas research to Thomas Mullay as the original owner. The lot was sold to John Mullay of Charlestown in 1870, with a deed to Thomas Mullay in 1871 "with buildings," thus dating construction to 1870-1871 and owned on the 1874 Atlas by Mullay. In 1876 the house was divided to Abbott Davis of Chelsea and resold to Michael Spindlar of Cambridge in 1887, as owned by Spindler and Samuel Cotton on the 1895 Atlas. The 1905 Directory lists Michael Spindler as a foreman, with Walter Harding and Michael Sullivan. The 1925 Directory shows Joseph Carlson, a plumber, Martin Kenny and Archibald McKee as residents, while the 1940 Directory lists only John Bryant, with the remaining apartments as vacant.

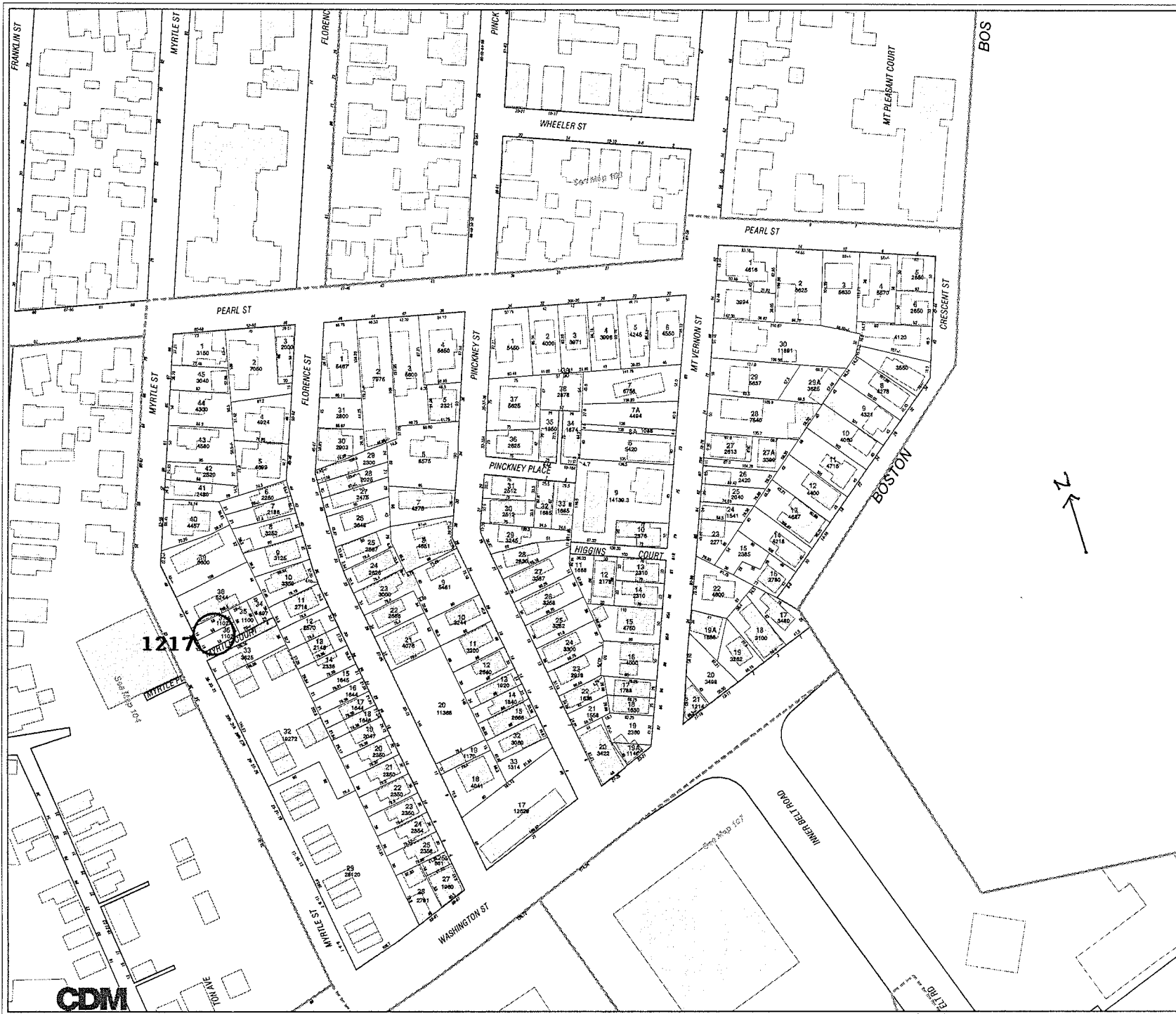
The Mullay double house is of historic note as a tenement apartment of the post-Civil War period with skilled professionals as residents through the mid-20th century.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

Atlas of Somerville. Philadelphia: J.M. Hopkins, 1874, 1884.  
Atlas of Somerville. Philadelphia: G.W. Bromley, 1895.  
Middlesex County Deeds. 1154-534 (1870), 1173-476A (1871),  
1381-21 (1876), 1803-24 (1887).  
Somerville Directory. Boston: W.A. Greenough, 1905-1940.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

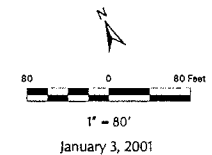
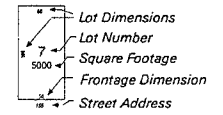


City of  
**Somerville**  
Massachusetts



**Assessors Map**

- Parcel Boundary
- Block Boundary
- Assessor Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- ▨ Railroad ROW



Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1995. Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

NOTE: The data represented on these maps indicate distances and detailed locations of cadastral boundaries in the City of Somerville. They are NOT survey data and should not be treated as such.



**105**

37-39 Myrtle St. SMV.1217

CDM

# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Assessor's Number	USGS Quad	Area(s)	Form Number
104-C-22	Boston North		1194

Town Somerville

Place (neighborhood or village) East Somerville

Address 47 Franklin St.

Historic Name Bowers House

Uses: Present residential

Original residential

Date of Construction 1869-1871

Source deeds and directories

Style/Form Mansard/suburban sidehall

Architect/Builder Alonzo Bowers

Exterior Material:

Foundation brick

Wall/Trim shingle/wood

Roof slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures \_\_\_\_\_

Major Alterations (with dates) \_\_\_\_\_

Condition fair/good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acreage 4723 sq.ft.

Setting suburban lot in dense

residential district

Recorded by Arthur Krim

Organization Somerville Hist.Presv.Comm.

Date (month/year) August 2005



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see attached map

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

☐ see continuation sheet

47 Franklin St.

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The suburban house at 47 Franklin Street was built in 1869-1871, likely by Alonzo Bowers as the housewright and original owner. The house follows a standard side hall plan of two stories with a third story mansard roof, set on a brick foundation. The design is Mansard Style as seen in the mansard roof with its original slate scalloped shingles and pedimented dormer windows. Other period features include the original portico with chamfered posts and pendant drop details and the side bay windows. As a local carpenter, Bowers possibly designed other Mansard Style houses in the area, perhaps 46 Pearl Street (SMV.1224), 70 Pearl Street (SMV.1225), and 94 Pearl Street (SMV.1226) of the same period.

Although resided, the Bowers house retains its original Mansard features, defining the suburban residential character of East Somerville in the post-Civil War period.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

☐ see continuation sheet

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

The suburban house at 47 Franklin Street is dated 1869-1871 by deed and directory research to Alonzo Bowers, as the original owner and likely builder. The suburban lot was purchased by Bowers in 1869 with Bowers listed as a carpenter in the 1871 Directory with a house on Franklin near Pearl, thus confirming construction to 1869-1871. Bowers remains as owner as shown on the 1874, 1884, and 1895 Atlases. By 1905 the house had been divided with listings for Wellington Brazel as driver, Daniel Munroe as teamster, and Mrs. Hannah Wetton. A similar listing is shown for 1925 with George Bowers, a mechanic and possible relation, Edwin Freeman, and Fred Pingree, a railroad engineer. The 1940 Directory also lists Mrs. Blanche Bowers, with John Cameron and Henry Maxwell.

The Bowers house is of note as a suburban residence of the post-Civil War period, designed by a local carpenter in East Somerville, and retained in the family through World War II.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

☐ see continuation sheet

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

City of  
**Somerville**  
Massachusetts



## Assessors Map

- Parcel Boundary
- Block Boundary
- Assessor Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- Railroad ROW

- Lot Dimensions
- Lot Number
- Square Footage
- Frontage Dimension
- Street Address

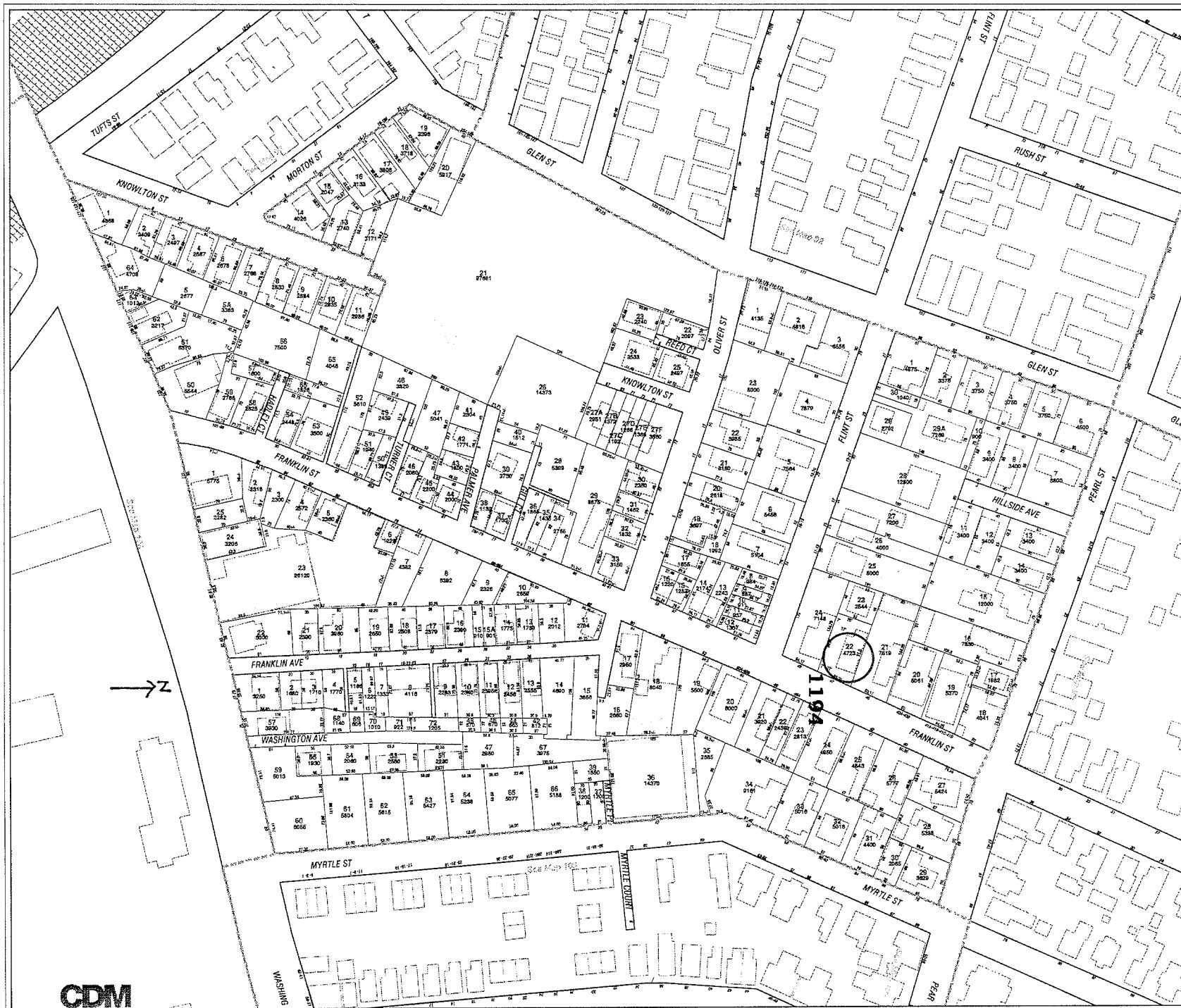


Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1995. Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

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# 104



CDM

47 Franklin St. SMV.1194

**FORM B - BUILDING**

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

62/ C/ 26

Boston-North

SMV.12345

Town SomervillePlace (neighborhood or village) Central HillAddress 61 Putnam StreetHistoric Name Dyer-Woodman houseUse: Present Single-family residenceOriginal Single-family residenceDate of Construction 1867-1868Source Middlesex County Deeds and Somerville City Direct.Style/Form Italianate / T-shapedArchitect/Builder Undetermined**Exterior Material**Foundation BrickWall Wood shinglesRoof Asphalt shinglesOutbuildings/Secondary Structures Substantial latenineteenth century stable at rear of building that was converted to a residence during the early 1990s.

**Major Alterations (with dates)** Wood shingles replaced original clapboards at undetermined date (probably turn of the twentieth century). Solid, wood shingle sheathed porch railings and square posts are apparently replaced original porch elements.

Condition GoodMoved ☐ yes ☒ noAcreage 5,583 square feetRecorded by Edward W. GordonOrganization Som. Historic Preservation Comm.Date(month/day/year) 3/7/05

**Setting** Central, best preserved member of trio of identical buildings constructed between 1867-1868. Part of densely built-up streetscape of residences built c.1867 to 1900 on the south slope of Central Hill. This house is located almost to the top of this slope near Highland Avenue. Wooden picket fence with vintage appearance encloses the narrow front yard.



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

**61 Putnam Street is the central, best preserved member of a trio of identical cross gable Italianate houses built during the late 1860s on the upper south slope of Central Hill. The house illustrates the type of solid, relatively modest, single-family housing built in Somerville just after the end of the Civil War.** At the rear of the property is a large barn that is characterized by a rectangular, wooden form. It was converted into a residence during the early 1990s.

Essentially T-shaped in form, this house stands with its long, three-bay main facade facing Putnam Street. Measuring a single bay in depth, its narrow side gables face north and south. Clad with wood shingles that probably replaced clapboards, this house rises two-stories from a low brick basement to a cross or intersecting gable roof. The narrow end gables exhibit return eaves.

The main facade is characterized by highly symmetrical fenestration with a center entrance flanked by one-story polygonal bays. The front door opens onto a porch that appears to have replaced the original. The porch is accessed by a short flight of wooden stairs. The porch features low wood shingle-clad railings. Rising from the railings are square posts that support the front porch's roof; a roof that extends over and encloses the flanking polygonal bays. The multi-panel front door appears to be original. The front door is set off by multi-pane sidelights and a transom. At the second story, a narrow polygonal oriel rises from the center of the porch roof. The oriel is flanked by standard - size windows. In general, windows are set off by original, raised and molded surrounds and contain original 2/2 double-hung wood sash. The main facade culminates in a

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

**Built in 1867-1868, 61 Putnam Street provides physical evidence of the town of Somerville on the eve of its incorporation as a City in 1872. This house was a product of the building boom linked with the post Civil War recovery of the national economy during the period of 1865 to 1873.**

This lot existed on paper as early as 1855 as lot number 94 on a 100+ lot tract platted by surveyors Thomas and John Doane on May 1, 1855. It was owned by Jonathan Johnson. Twelve-to-thirteen years elapsed before the 61 Putnam house was built for Evarts McQuester of Cambridge. Middlesex County deeds shed light on the lot's ownership prior to the house's c.1867-1868 construction. It was purchased by Benjamin Hadley of Somerville, teamster, from Lucinda B. Gould in May of 1862. Hadley sold the 5,583 square foot lot to Evarts Mc Quester of Cambridge for \$500 in August of 1867. The modest sum paid for this property by McQuester indicates that a house was not extant on the premises. Presumably McQuester built the nearly identical neighboring dwellings at 63 and 59 Putnam Street, as well as 61 Putnam Street in 1867-1868. The house was apparently ready for occupancy when Lucy M. and Frances S. Dyer, pension agent, purchased the property from McQuester in June of 1868. The Dyers lived here until November, 1881. Evidently the Dyers had a mortgage with Benjamin F. Tyler of Somerville between 1874 and 1879.

In November of 1881, Herbert K. Woodman purchased the Putnam Street premises from the Dyers for \$3500.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

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**Somerville City Directories**: 1869-70 to 1940; **Somerville Assessor's Department On Line Database**.  
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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.  
*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

**INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET**

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Town:  
Somerville, MA

Area(s):  
Central Hill

Property Address:  
**61 Putnam Street**

**Form No:**  
SMV.1234

Indicate each item on inventory form, continued below.

**Architectural Description**

low-pitched center gable, while saw -cut brackets are in evidence at the eaves.

**Historical Narrative**

Woodman was a milkman who lived here from 1881 until c. 1905. By 1910, Harlan P. Knight, a master or principal at the Luther V. Bell School, lived at 61 Putnam Street. By 1920, the house had been subdivided into a two-family residence with Grace and J. Clifford Reynolds, clerk, in one unit, while Emma N. and Perley H. Lanpher resided in the other half of the house. The 1920 Somerville City Directory lists Mr. Lampher's business as "butter." The Lamphers were in residence here until at least the early 1940s. By 1940, Lampher is listed as the proprietor of the Conwell Avenue Market.

61 Putnam Street and adjacent lots existed on paper as early as 1855 but was not set out until c. 1858-1865. The 1857 H. F. Walling Map of Charlestown, Somerville and Cambridge shows the large tract bounded by Walnut, Bow/Somerville Avenue, School Street and Church Street (Highland Avenue) as completely devoid of houses. As late as 1857, Summer Street, at the southern end of Putnam Street, was extant only between Laurel and Cherry Streets. Putnam street was evidently named for General Israel Putnam who provided exceptional leadership at the Battle of Bunker Hill and headed the encampment of troops on Somerville's Winter, Central and Prospect Hills during the siege of Boston in 1775-1776.

**Staple to inventory form at bottom**

61 PUTNAM STREET SMV. 1235



City of  
**Somerville**  
Massachusetts

**Assessors Map**

- Parcel Boundary
- Block Boundary
- Assessor Map Boundary
- Water Body
- Building
- Railroad ROW

Lot Dimensions  
Lot Number  
Square Footage  
Frontage Dimension  
Street Address

February 07, 2002

Sources: Rights-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1993. Parcel data derived from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

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**62**