

AUG 04 1988

1226

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

103

Town Somerville

Address 37 Albion Street

Historic Name F.G. Williams House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1860

Source map research / stylistic analysis

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting North side of residential street, on a sizeable corner lot, with a Centre Street address as well Late-19th century surrounds, urban.

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date September 1988

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north

See attached assessor's map

UTM REFERENCE Z E N 19 326/730 4695/060

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

## **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Frank G. Williams House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association with Somerville's mid-19th century development. The dwelling is one of the best preserved examples of a center gable Italianate and is architecturally significant as an excellent Somerville representative of the period and style. The Frank G. Williams House fulfills Criterion C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

## **ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.**

The F.G. Williams House is one of the best preserved examples of a center gable Italianate remaining in Somerville. Located on a corner lot giving the house high visibility, it exhibits a traditional three-bay center entrance plan with a substantial rear ell. The dwelling displays fine Italianate detail including the center gable with trefoil window in the peak, round headed windows in the gable-end peaks, high profile bracketed window lintels, and a raking cornice with elaborately carved brackets. The center entrance with half side lights and transom is accentuated by the projecting open porch with squared columns and pilasters and a bracketed cornice.

The near by Gaut House at 137 Highland Avenue retains identical fenestration and bracketing detail. In all likelihood the two houses were built at the same time by the same builder.

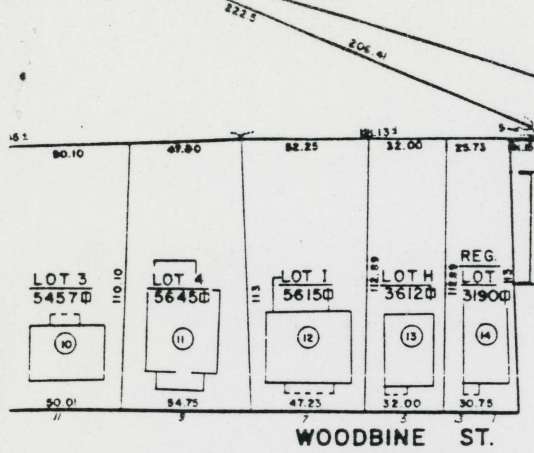
## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.**

Located on Albion Street, once known as Forest Place, the Frank G. Williams House was one of the first houses built in the "Polly Swamp" area. By 1880 there were at least five dwellings in this subdivision laid out by the mid 19th century land owners, the Stearnes. Subsequent development of the immediate area occurred at the end of the 19th century when William Stearnes subdivided remaining lands of the family farm. Much of the housing stock included modest mansard cottages and two-family vernacular housing.

Frank Williams, the mid 19th century owner and resident of this dwelling worked in Boston and dealt in kitchen furnishings.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1874.  
Directories of the City of Somerville, 1870s.



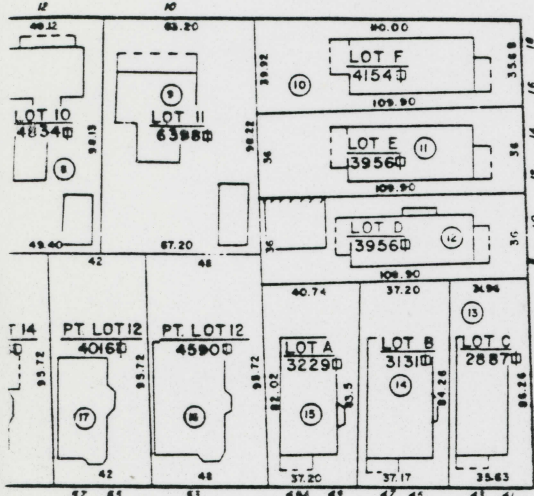
WOODBINE ST.

#103

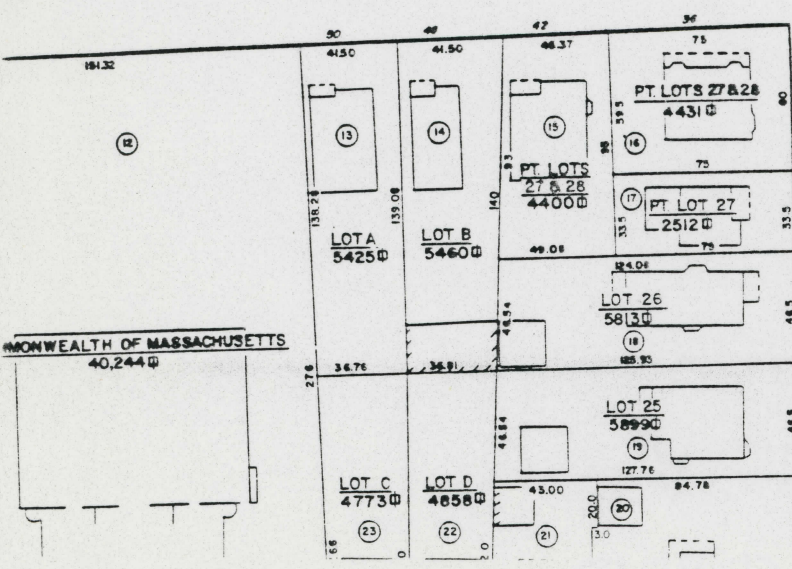
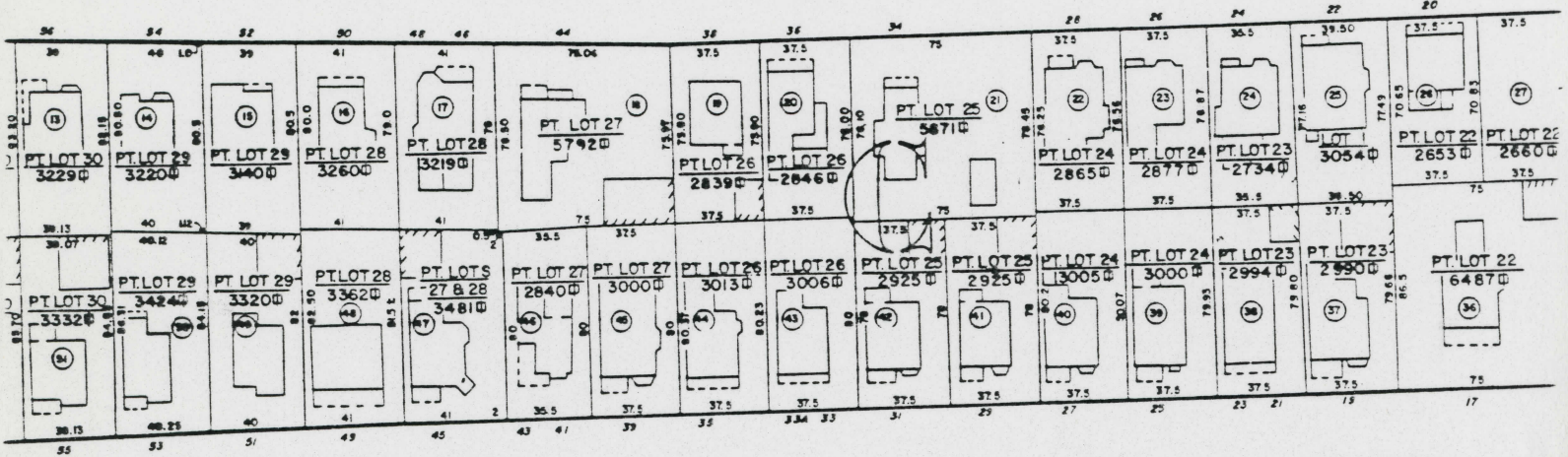
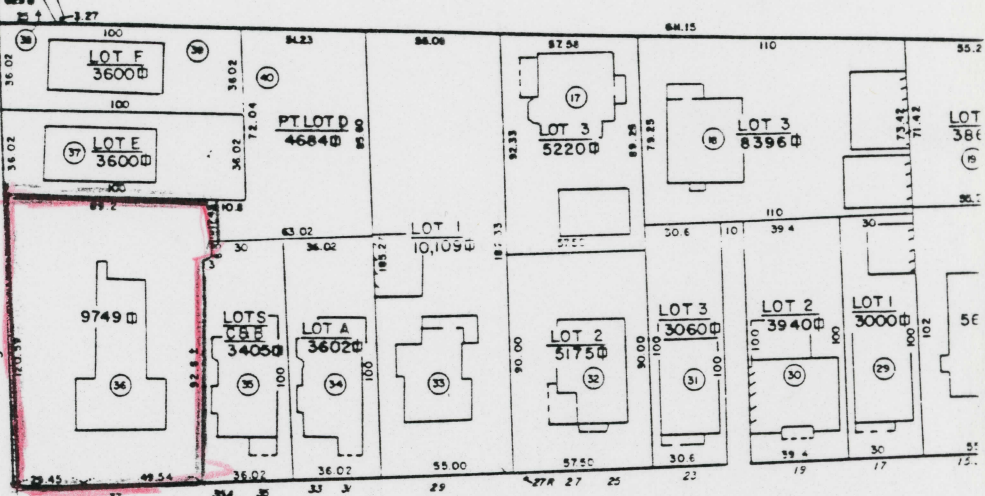
FG. WILLIAMS HOUSE  
37 Albion St Somerville  
MRA, MA

62,710 sq ft

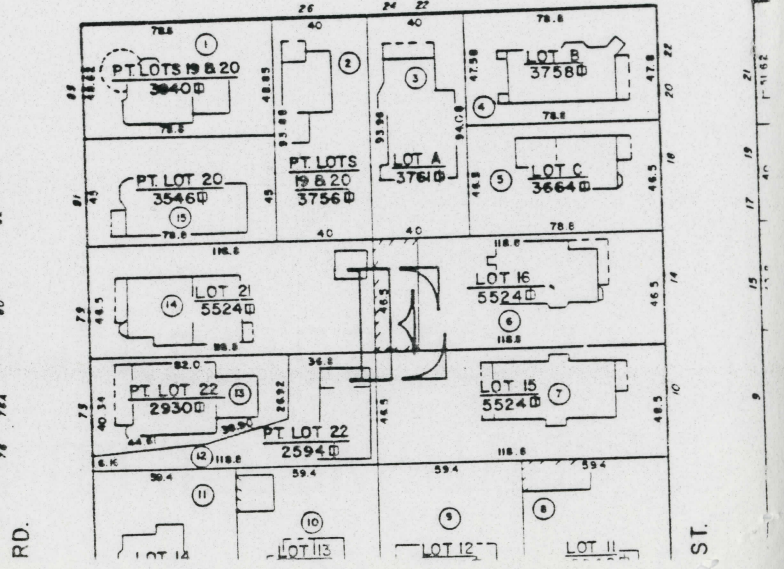
1" = 100'



CENTRE ST.



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
40,244 sq ft



R.D.

ST.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 4 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Somerville MPS  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
71. Tufts, Peter and Oliver, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
72. Warren, H., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
73. West Somerville Branch Library <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
74. Williams, Charles, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
<i>SN</i> 75. Williams, Charles, Jr., House Substantive Review	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Beth L. Savage</i></u> <u>9-18-89</u> Attest _____
76. Williams, F.G., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
77. Worthen, Daniel, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
78. Wright House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
<i>SN</i> 79. Wyatt, George, House Substantive Review	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Beth L. Savage</i></u> <u>9-18-89</u> Attest _____
80. Somerville Theatre <del><i>Entered in the National Register</i></del> Substantive Review	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>1/20/90</u> <del><i>Entered in the National Register</i></del>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Williams, F. G., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Somerville MPS

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/04/89      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/89  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/89      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/18/89  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001226

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    9/18/89 DATE    Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



37 Albion

1. 37 Albion Street
2. Somerville, MA
3. C Zellie
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking northeast
7. #103 Williams, F. G., House  
Somerville MA, Ma

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253