

AUG 04 1989

1248

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
West Somerville	127

Town Somerville

Address 40 College Avenue

Historic Name West Somerville Branch Library

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

Use: Present library

Original library

DESCRIPTION

Date 1909

Source plans

Style Neoclassical

Architect McLean and Wright, Boston

Exterior Wall Fabric smooth-faced granite

Outbuildings none

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

Major Alterations (with dates) none

See Attached Assessor's Map

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting The library is located on a major roadway leading to Davis Square in West Somerville

Commercial and institutional surrounds

UTM REFERENCE Z 19 - E 325/270 - N 4695/930

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date June 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The handsomely detailed West Somerville Branch Library retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling, as well as associations with Somerville's municipal building program and extreme growth at the turn of the century. Somerville's most intact example of the Neo-classical style, the building fulfills Criteria A and 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.

This small branch library is one of Somerville's best conserved examples of the Neo-classical style. The fine entrance portico is composed of a triangular pediment carried by Ionic columns and broad pilasters. A modillioned cornice is carried around the building, and into the full raking cornice. Urns and acroteria finish the pediment. Built of smooth-cut granite, the building is 1 1/2 stories in height and three bays wide it is capped by a shallow hipped roof. Similar examples of the various expressions of the Neo-classical elsewhere in Somerville have been altered.

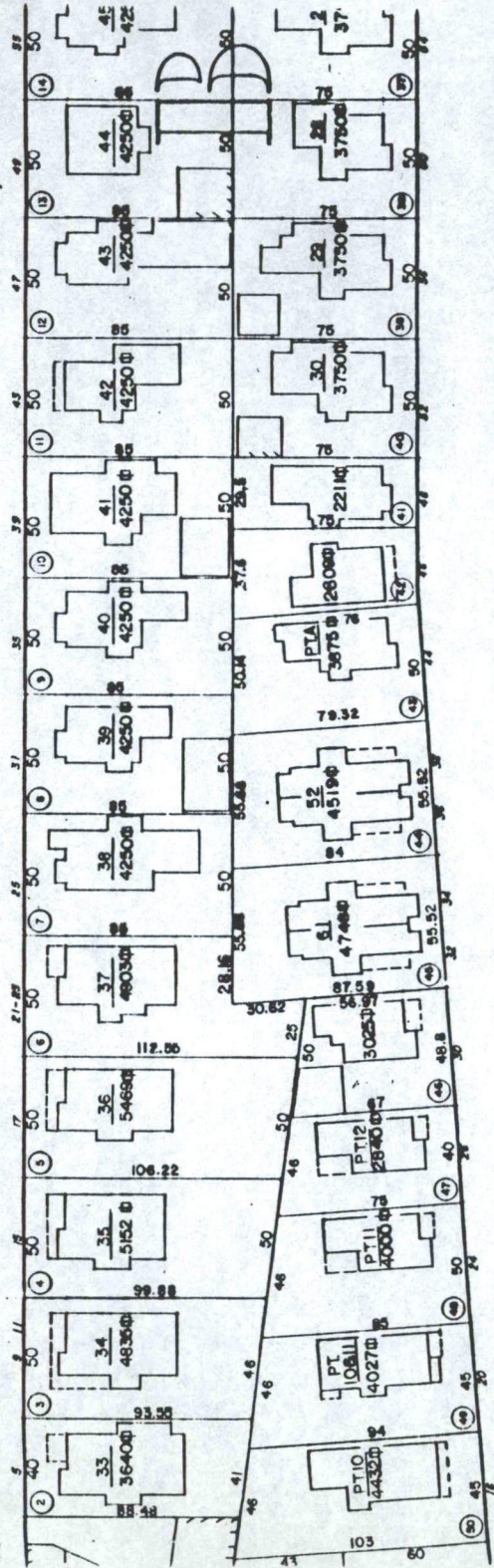
HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

The West Somerville Branch Library was opened in 1909, during the administration of librarian Samuel Walter Foss, noted poet and author of the "House By the Side of the Road." The West Somerville branch originated in a store in Davis Square, and served the growing population near Davis Square and the Old Powderhouse. The library construction was funded through a gift of \$25,000 from the Andrew Carnegie Foundation and through city appropriations.

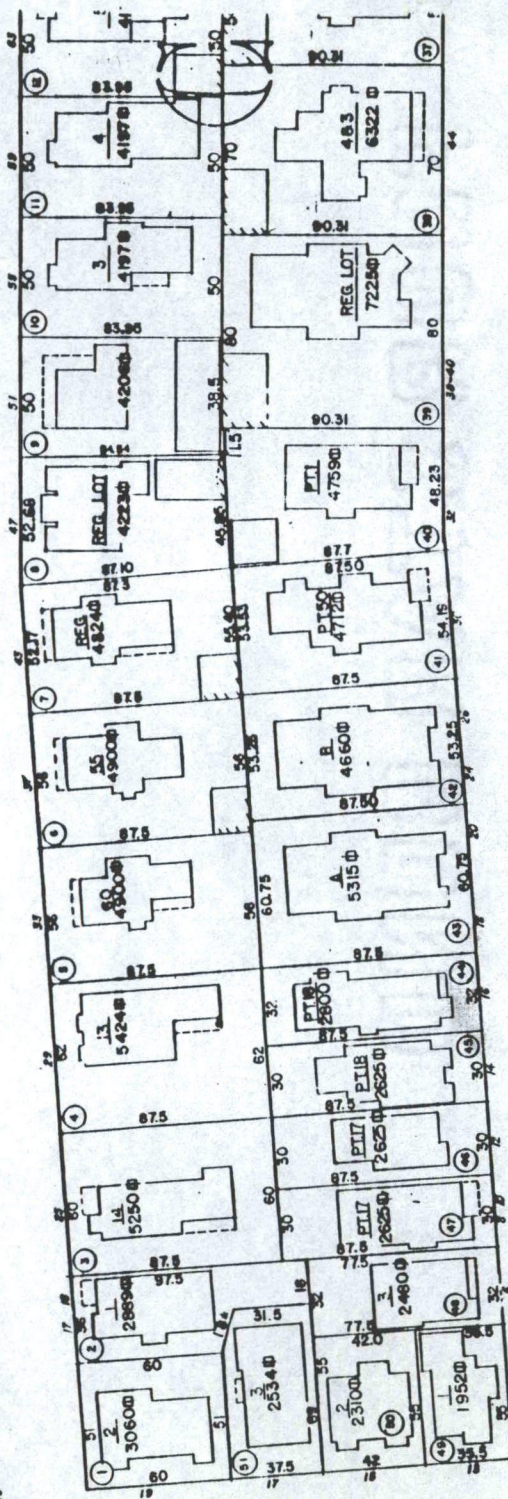
BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Miscellaneous newspaper clippings, West Branch Library

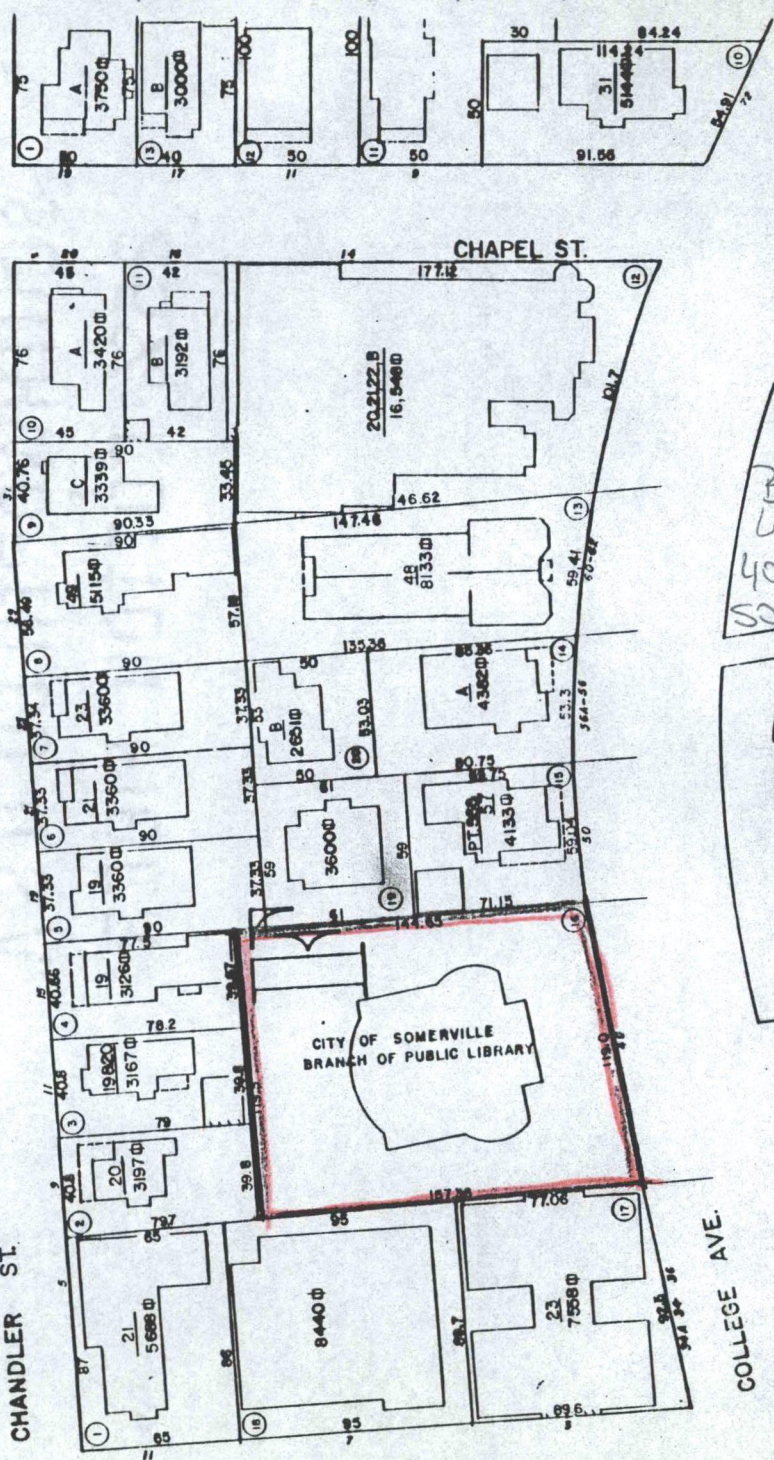
VING ST.



PARK AVE.



CHANDLER ST.



COLLEGE AVE.

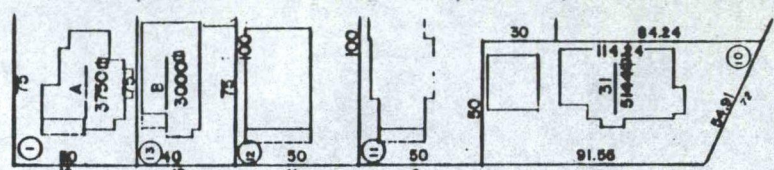
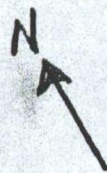
CHAPEL ST.

HALL AVE.

West
Somerville
Branch
Library
40 College Ave
Somerville
Mass.

MORRISON AVE.

WINSLOW



#100

#127

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
*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper *Melrose Byrum* 9/18/89

Attest _____

72. Warren, H., House
*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper *Melrose Byrum* 9/18/89

Attest _____

73. West Somerville Branch Library
*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper *Melrose Byrum* 9/18/89

Attest _____

74. Williams, Charles, House
*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper *Melrose Byrum* 9/18/89

Attest _____

SEN 75. Williams, Charles, Jr., House
Substantive Review

for Keeper *Betty L. Savage* 9-18-89

Attest _____

76. Williams, F.G., House
*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper *Melrose Byrum* 9/18/89

Attest _____

77. Worthen, Daniel, House
*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper *Melrose Byrum* 9/18/89

Attest _____

78. Wright House
*Entered in the
National Register*

for Keeper *Melrose Byrum* 9/18/89

Attest _____

SEN 79. Wyatt, George, House
Substantive Review

for Keeper *Betty L. Savage* 9-18-89

Attest _____

80. Somerville Theatre
~~*Entered in the
National Register*~~
Substantive Review
*Entered in the
National Register*

Keeper *Melrose Byrum* 1/20/90

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: West Somerville Branch Library

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: 89001248

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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



PUBLIC LIBRARY

NO
TURN
ON RED

40 College Ave

1. 40 College Ave.
2. Somerville, MA
3. Carol Zellie
4. 1983
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking west
7. #127

West Somerville
Branch Library
Somerville MA, MA

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253