

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.277
Historic Name:	Taylor, Adoniram House and Stable
Common Name:	
Address:	17-19A Aldersey St
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Prospect Hill
Local No:	54; 72-C-13
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Second Empire
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	SMV.BA: Somerville Single Building Local Historic District SMV.BF: Aldersey - Summit Historic District SMV.D: Summit Avenue
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (10/31/1989); Local Historic District (3/4/2003)



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

LHD-1013189 [2C]
PI. PROSPECT
USGS BOSTON
SE 1/4

AREA

FORM NO.

Prospect
Hill

277

SOMERVILLE

17 Aldersey Street

Historic Name Adoniram J. Taylor

Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

1869

deeds / maps

Second Empire

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings stable converted to mansard cottage

4-bay concrete garage with false front parapet

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition good

Moved Date

Acreage 14,425 sq. ft.

Setting North side of well established residential street in Prospect Hill area. Large treed lot, other 19th

century dwellings surrounding.

Carol Zellie - 1980

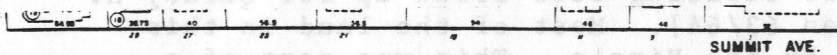
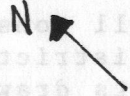
Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler - 1988

Organization Somerville Historic Preservation Commission

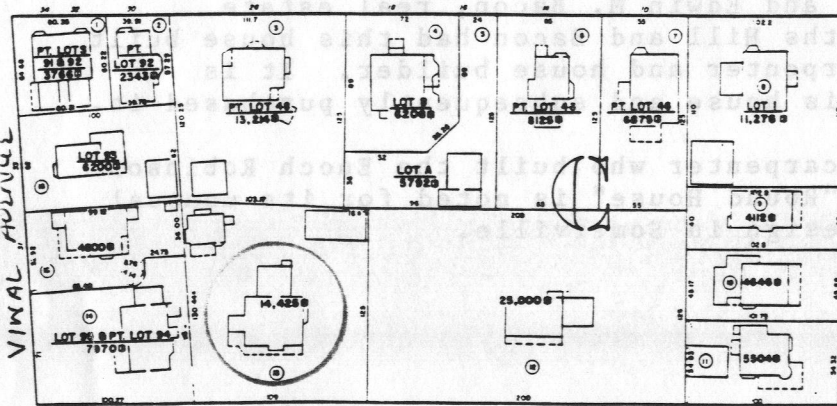
Date April, 1988
February, 1989 (updated)



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



SUMMIT AVE.



ALDERSEY ST.

UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The property is significant for :

A - its representation of a substantial dwelling built in the Prospect Hill area of Somerville, as an early example of the suburban residential development characteristic of Somerville.

C - its style and architectural design representative of the work of local craftsmen.

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

This house is a fine example of a three story, Second Empire dwelling built on one of the larger residential lots in the Prospect Hill area. Although there is a center entrance with a projecting central pavillion the plan is asymmetrical with a side ell that is incorporated into the straight edged mansard roof. Intact architectural detail includes the paired cornice brackets, segmental arched dormers, patterned slate roof, wood block quoins, and cut glass panels on the paired entrance doors. There is a full length, wrap porch with a decorated balustrade and lattice screening on the side section. In all likelihood, this was added in the early 20th century. Similar detail is found on the mansard cottage at the rear of the property which is a converted stable.

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

The property is one of the best examples of a well conserved Second Empire house on a large double lot in the residential district of Prospect Hill. Aldersey Street is part of a plan of building lots drawn up for Quincy A. Vinal in 1868. [Plan Book 15, Plan 63/64]. Most of the land in this section of Prospect Hill was owned by the Vinals. This was part of a larger parcel conveyed to Ira Hill and Edwin M. Bacon, real estate investors in 1869. Within two months Hill and Bacon had this house built and sold to Adoniram J. Taylor, carpenter and house builder. It is possible that he may have built this house and subsequently purchased it.

It is thought that Taylor was the carpenter who built the Enoch Robinson House at 36 Atherton Street. The "Round House" is noted for its unusual round shape and is the only such design in Somerville.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1. Atlas of Middlesex County, Somerville: 1874 ("A.J. Taylor"), 1884 ("A.J. Taylor"), 1895 ("Adoniram J. Taylor").
2. Directories: 1870s - 1890s.
3. Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County: Book 1086, Page 623; Book 1086, Page 626; Book 1104, Page 269.

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston



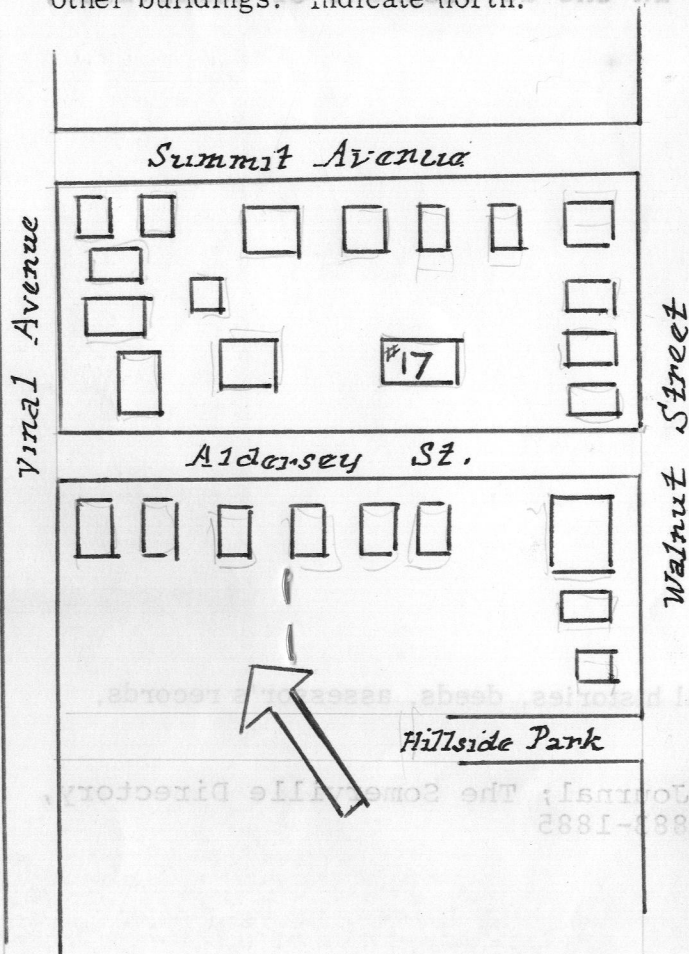
17 Aldersey St.
LHD-10/31/89
20
Pl. Record
USGS-BOSTON
SECT B

SMV. 277

In Area no. D Form no. 72-C-13
54

town Somerville
-19A
Address 17 Aldersey Street
Name TAYLOR, ADONIRAM HOUSE
AND STABLE
Present use residence
Present owner Trs. of Karry Realty Trust
Description:
Date 1884
Source Source
Style Mansard

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect Unknown
Exterior wall fabric Clapboard
Outbuildings (describe)
Other features interesting stick work on front porch and side entrance.
Altered Date
Moved Date
5. Lot size: 14,425 sq.ft.
One acre or less Over one acre
Approximate frontage 109'
Approximate distance of building from street 35'
6. Recorded by M.A. Campbell, K. Tuttmann, W. Mulligan, J. Fitzmaurice
Office of Planning & Community Development
Date September 22, 1978

(over)

SEP 28 1978

MASS. HIST. COMM.

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>XX</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>XX</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

An unusually elaborate example of the palatial second empire (Mansard) style with imposing proportions. The exterior fabric is in clapboard with quoined corners, with decorative slate roof shingles. There is excellent lattice work on both the front and side porches. It documents a period of architecture in the development of Somerville.



10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, census records, early maps, etc.)

Assessors' Records; Somerville Journal; The Somerville Directory, W.A. Greenough & Co., Boston, 1883-1885