

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.272
Historic Name:	Robbins, Henry House
Common Name:	
Address:	2 Bigelow St
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Prospect Hill
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Queen Anne; Stick Style
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	SMV.BA: Somerville Single Building Local Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (10/31/1989)



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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

LITS. 1013184 (10)
A-PROSPECT
USGS BOSTON
SECT B

AREA

FORM NO.

Prospect
Hill

272

SOMERVILLE

Address 2 Bigelow Street

Historic Name Henry A. Robbins

Present residential

Original residential

OPTION

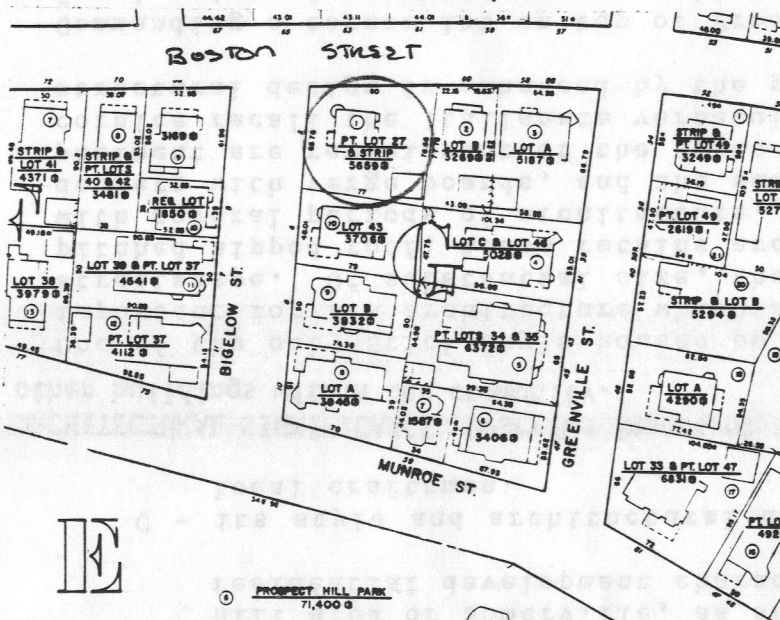
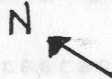
1886

maps / deeds

Stick Style/Queen Anne



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



Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition very good

Moved Date

Acreage 5659 sq. ft.

Setting East side of Bigelow, corner of Boston St. at top of Prospect Hill in well established residential late 19th century neighborhood

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Somerville Historic Preservation Commission

Date April, 1988

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 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.

One of the only Stick Style houses on Prospect Hill, this dwelling is important for its architecture which adds variety and interest to the streetscape. Of substantial size, the two and one-half story, steeply pitched hipped roof, house retains architectural elaboration associated with several periods of architecture. The corner, one-story bay, the gable dormers with verge boards, and the sunburst design of the center-entrance pediment are reminiscent of the Queen Anne style, while brackets at the cornice recall the Italianate vernacular. The stick work articulating the structural design is enhanced by the proper color schemes.

Commanding a corner lot on top of Prospect Hill, this house is an important focal point of streetscapes as well as an understanding to the development of Prospect Hill.

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 only examples of a Stick Style/Queen Anne house in the Prospect Hill area. Built on top of the hill with a fine vista of the surrounds, the land had been owned by John Dugan and later by William H. Thompson. A subdivision plan had been drawn up prior to 1874 as the 1874 map indicates with most lots belonging to Thompson. Bigelow Street was then called High Street. In 1886 Thompson had a Plan of Building Lots, Prospect Hill redrawn and this property was Lot # 43. [Plan Book #50, Plan #39]. Thus although laid out in the 1870s, the top of Prospect Hill was not developed until the 1880s. When construction did occur, the results were substantial single family dwellings with interesting and varied architectural elaboration.

Henry A. Robbins of Somerville purchased the lot in 1886 and built the house immediately as City Directories list him at this address by 1887. Robbins worked in "paints" in Boston.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1. Atlas of Middlesex County, Somerville: 1874 ("W.H. Thompson" land only), 1884 ("W.H. Thompson" land only), 1895 ("Henry A. Robbins").
2. Directories: 1870s - 1890s.
3. Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County: Book 1232, Page 415; Book 1823, Page 488.