

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SMV.14
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Somerville Historical Society
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	1 Westwood Rd
<b>City/Town:</b>	Somerville
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Spring Hill
<b>Local No:</b>	20; 1078
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	C 1925
<b>Architect(s):</b>	Dykeman, William A.
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Colonial Revival
<b>Use(s):</b>	Museum
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture; Community Planning; Education; Literature
<b>Area(s):</b>	smv.ap: Westwood Road Historic District SMV.AT: Westwood Road Historic District SMV.AY: Somerville Multiple Resource Area
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (3/11/1985); Nat'l Register District (9/18/1989); Nat'l Register MRA (9/18/1989); Preservation Restriction (11/14/1986)



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

This file was accessed on:

Friday, March 09, 2012 at 3:32: PM

**FORM B - BUILDING**

LHD - 3/11/85  
PR - 11/14/86

NRDIS/MRA 9-18-89

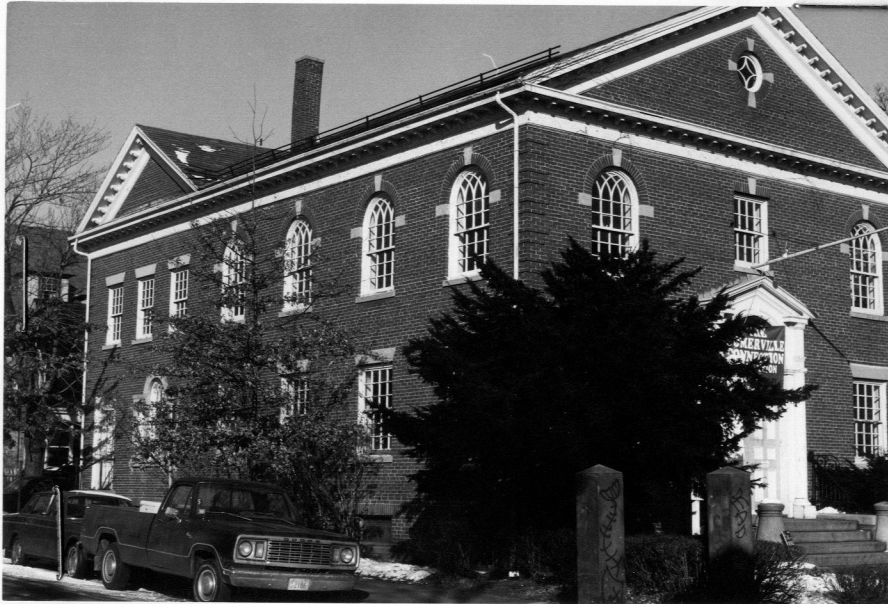
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

AT, Westwood  
AP, Road  
AY

MHC-20  
1078  
(14)



h Somerville  
ress One Westwood Road  
toric Name Somerville Historical Society  
: Present educational/museum  
Original educational/museum  
SCRIPTION PI-SPRING USG-BOSTON SCLT B  
e 1925-1929  
rce Museum records  
le Federal Revival  
hitect William Dykeman

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

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

See Attached Assessor's Map

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Short residential street in Spring Hill area, off Central, well established neighborhood of homes of substantial size

UTM REFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

SCALE 1:25,0000

Date September, 1988



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

The Somerville Historical Society retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It is architecturally and historically significant and fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level.

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

The Somerville Historical Society building, which is the Historical Society museum, is a two-story Federal Revival Style building executed in red brick with a slate roof. The main exhibition hall of the Museum includes Charles Bulfinch's "Flying Double Staircase", which Bulfinch designed and had built in 1792 for Joseph Barrell Mansion (later the McLean Asylum) in east Somerville. This staircase was saved from demolition in 1892 by the Shaw family of Wayland. In the late 1940s the Society acquired the Staircase from the Shaw state and moved it to the Museum. Also, the front steps, doors, and foyer which form the Museum's main entry are from the City's original public library (razed).

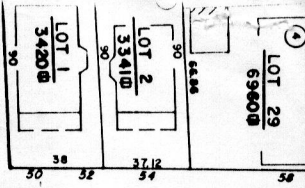
**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.**

The Society was founded in 1897 by Somerville professionals, businessmen, and religious, social, cultural, educational and municipal leaders. Many of these founding members were descendants of original settlers. Included among the founders were Charles Elliot, Somerville City Engineer; William Preble Jones, Somerville Journal Editor; Elmer H. Capen, President of Tufts College; Samuel Walter Foss, poet; Henry Hadley, composer; and John Ayer, founder of the Bay State Historical League. From 1897 to 1908 the Society published "Historic Leaves" a multi volume magazine with essays on Somerville places, names, people, historic sites, etc. The "Leaves" were written by Society members and edited by Sam Walter Foss. Since 1898 the Society has collected evidence and material relating to the history of Somerville and its environs. Also, since 1898 the Society has hosted a lecture series on local, state, and national history.

The building site is the geographic center of the community and was chosen for its central location. The Museum is the only cultural facility constructed by the community since its founding as a town in 1842.

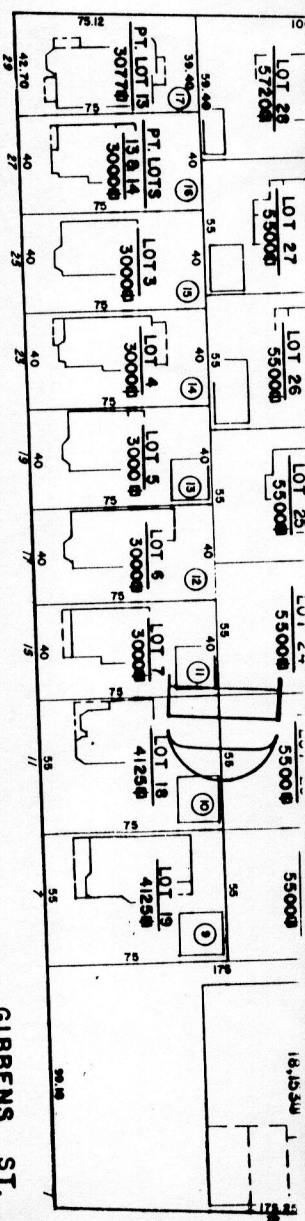
**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Plans for Somerville Historical Society Building (Blueprints): William Dykeman, Architect, 1925, Somerville Historical Society.  
Historic Leaves: Society members, 1898 to 1908, Somerville Historical Soc.

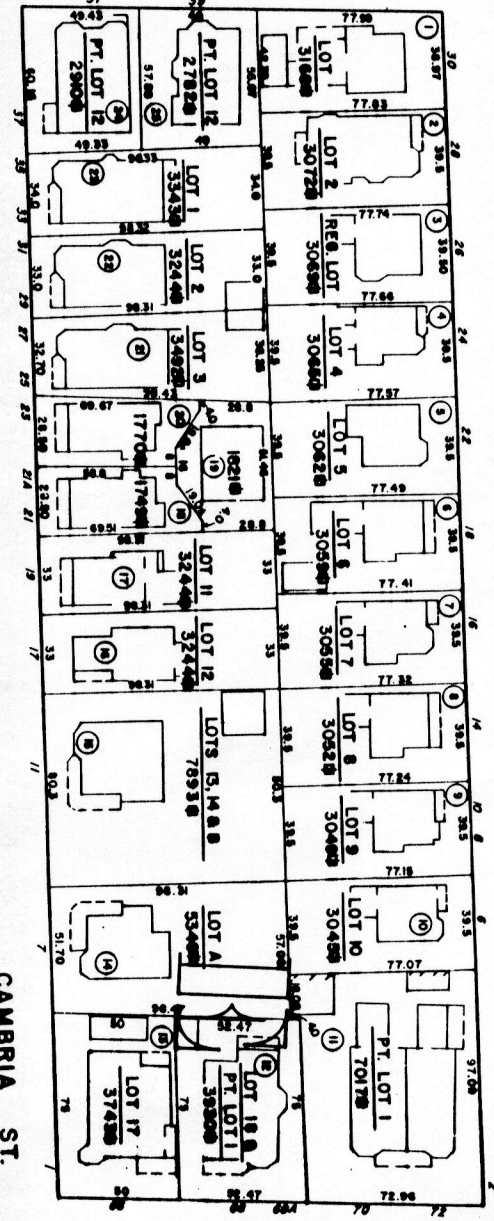


ENS ST.

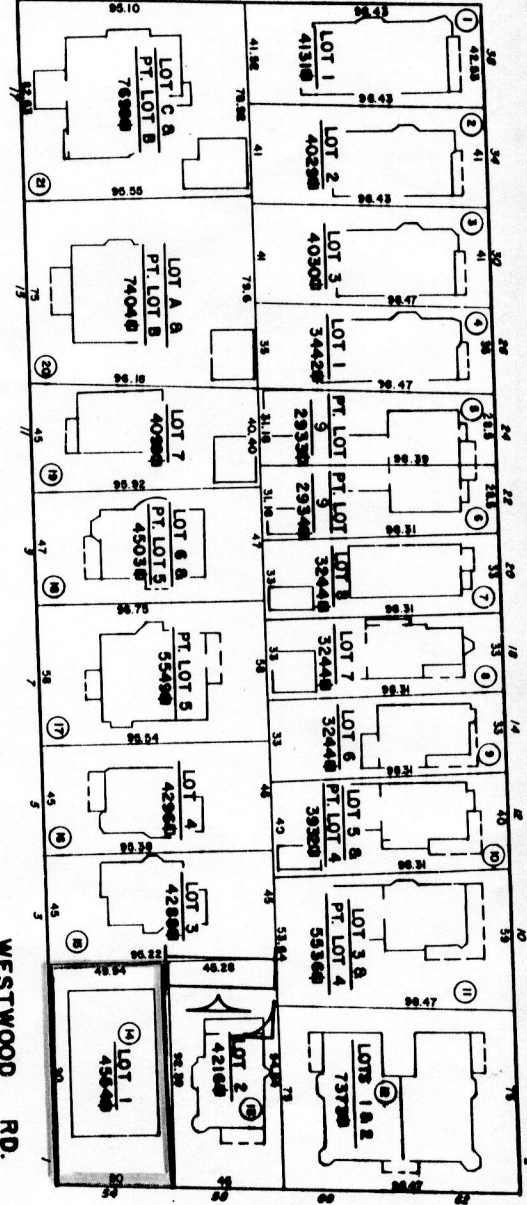
BENTON



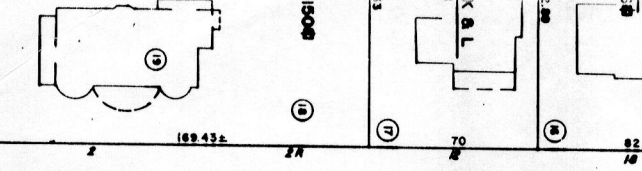
GIBBENS ST.



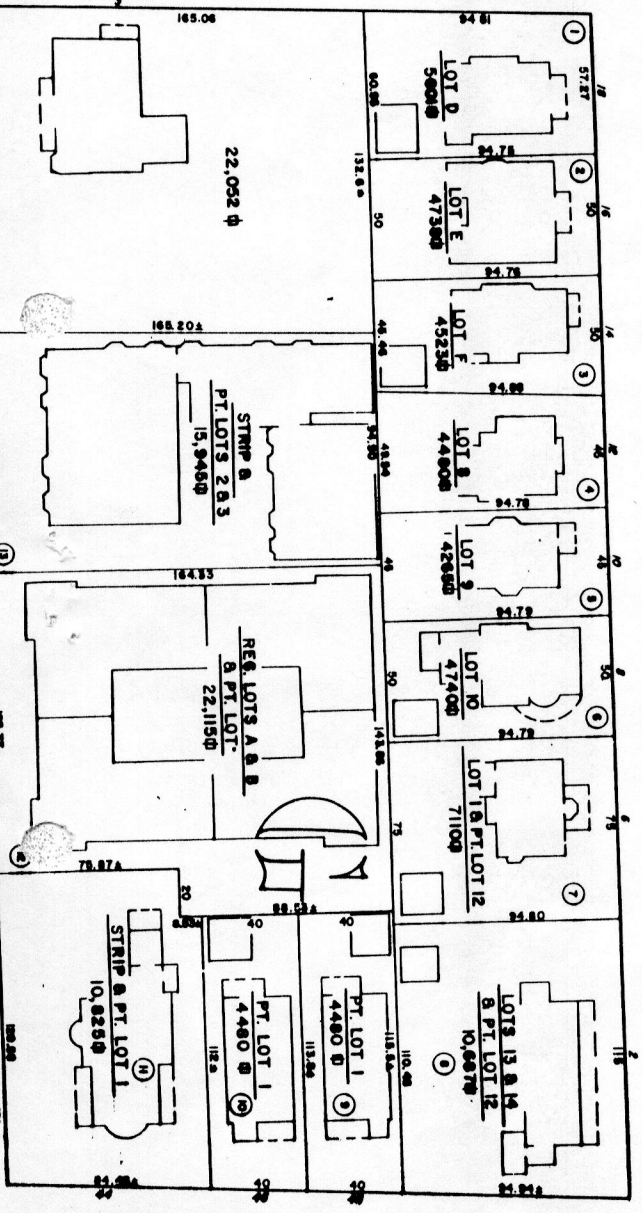
CAMBRIA ST.



WESTWOOD RD.



BENTON RD.



CENTRAL ST.

SMV  
14

AV  
S

BE  
KE  
S

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

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

Town

Property Address

Somerville One Westwood Rd.

Area(s)

Form No.

SMV 1 14

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
 DIVISION OF INSPECTION  
 PLAN RECORD

CASE C RACK 14 APART. 5 NO. 33454

BUILDING Somerville Hist. Society STORES 2b

CITY OR TOWN Somerville STREET Central cor. Westwood Road

TO BE USED FOR offices & hall CLASS third

OWNER Somerville Historical Society

ARCHITECT Wm. A. Dykeman, Boston

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL 7-12-29 SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS—REFERRED

DATE Lewis

INSPECTOR

Form Bu I 11-7-28 2M No. 4051