

AUG 04 1988

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

	178
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Somerville

Name of Area (if any) Prospect Hill

area of Somerville - Hollander Blocks

Present Use residential

General Date or Period ca. 1890

General Condition excellent

Acreage less than one acre

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date September, 1988

Photos (3"x3" or 3"x5" black & white) Indicate on back of each photo street addresses for buildings shown. Staple to left side of form.

Sketch Map. Draw a general map of the area indicating properties within it. Number each property for which individual inventory forms have been completed. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Indicate north. (Attach a separate sheet if space here is not sufficient).

See Attached Assessor's Map

	Z	E	N
TM REFERENCE	<u>19 - 327/490 - 4694/310</u>		
	<u>19 - 327/480 - 4694/320</u>		

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Hollander Blocks retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with the late 19th century development of residential Prospect Hill. They are architecturally and historically significant to Somerville, thus, they fulfill Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and are significant at the local level.

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

The two apartment houses, constructed circa 1890 are Queen Anne in style with Colonial Revival features evident in their symmetry, abbreviated hipped roof embellished by an elaborate copper cresting, and the three decker porches (on 56-58 Walnut Street) with simple balustrades and unadorned Tuscan-like columns with simplified capitals. The buildings are sheathed in clapboards with wide band courses of decorative shingles delineating the three stories of the buildings. Built on a corner lot with one building facing Pleasant Avenue and one facing Walnut Street, the two buildings command an important focal point in the predominately single and two-family residential neighborhood on Prospect Hill.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain historical importance of area and how the area relates to the development of other areas of the community.

Prospect Hill, one of the most substantial residential neighborhoods of Somerville, evolved throughout the late 19th century. Prior to that it was an agricultural community of farms. Large tracts of land were subdivided by real estate investors and well-to-do merchants in the mid 1800s. Pleasant Avenue, including the corner lots on Walnut Street was part of the 1870 subdivision plan of Ira Hill and others. Each side of Pleasant Avenue was subdivided into seven lots which were then sold for development.

Investor T. Clarence Hollander built the 10-unit Hollander block at 56-58 Walnut Street and the adjoining 12-unit apartment house at 4-6 Pleasant Avenue by 1895. After the subdivision the corner lot had been purchased by Charles B. Hollander and is recorded as part of his estate by 1884. It was his heirs who finally developed the land as the need for housing in the area increased dramatically at the end of the 1800s.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Bromley, G.W., Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1895.
City Directories, 1880s - 1890s.
Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County, Plan Book 17, Plan 88.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 |
|--|---|
| 21. Crowell, C.C., House
<i>Entered in the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 22. Downer Rowhouses (Adams Street)
<i>Entered in the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 23. Downer Rowhouses (Central Street)
<i>Entered in the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| <i>506</i> 24. First Unitarian Church
<i>Substantive Review</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Beth L. Saurge 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| <i>507</i> 25. First Universalist Church
<i>Substantive Review</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Beth L. Saurge 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 26. Foster, Alexander, House
<i>Entered in the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 27. Gaut, Samuel, House
<i>Entered in the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 28. Grandview, The
<i>Entered in the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 29. Highland, The
<i>Entered in the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |
| 30. Hollander Blocks
<i>Entered in the National Register</i> | <i>for</i> Keeper <u>Melrose Byers 9/18/89</u>
Attest _____ |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hollander Blocks

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: 89001296

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 _____



GUZZO

BROS.

HEATING-GAS FITTING
CONTRACTORS

GUZZO BROS.

HEATING
PLUMBING

1. 4-6 Pleasant Avenue
2. Somerville, MA
3. G. Schuler
4. 1988
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking southeast
7. # ~~158~~ 178

Holland Blakes
Somerville MA, Me



~~AKA Pleasant~~ 56-58 Walnut

1. 56-58 Walnut Street
2. Somerville, MA
3. C. Zelke
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking north
7. #178

Hellendo Blocks

Somerville MA, Me

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253