

## FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

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

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

See Attached Assessor's Map

UTM REFERENCE 19 328/000 4694/330  
USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North  
SCALE 1:25,000

1253  
AREA

FORM NO.

East  
Somerville

132

Town Somerville

Address 108 Cross Street

Historic Name Charles Williams House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

## DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1848

Source map research / Samuel's

Style Italianate Somerville: Past and Present

Architect none

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard covered by synthetic siding

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) iron balcon

ca. 1900, entrance steps and iron rail  
ca. 195

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Northeast corner of Cross and Oliver Streets, residential neighborhood with some commercial encroachment and some newer mid-20th c. construction

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date September, 1988

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

The Charles Williams House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association with the mid-19th century development of East Somerville. It is architecturally and historically significant to Somerville, thus, the dwelling fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places and is significant at the local level.

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

The Charles Williams House is one of only a few examples of early Italianate dwellings in Somerville built by 1850. Situated on the corner of Cross and Oliver Streets in East Somerville the three-bay house has a center projecting pavilion with a panelled entrance door surrounded by a glazed transom and full side lights. On the second story there is a Palladian window motif which is said to be part of the original design. An iron balcony has been added at the second story Palladian-style window. Fenestration resembles influence of the Greek Revival period with long double hung sash at the first story level.

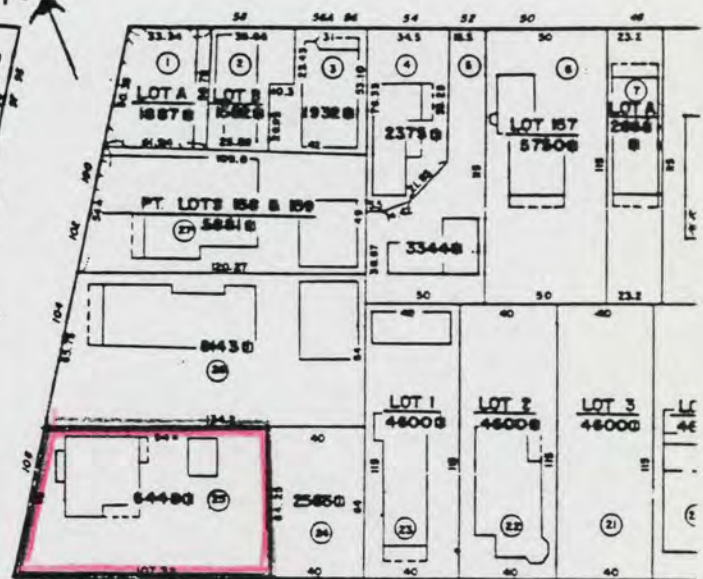
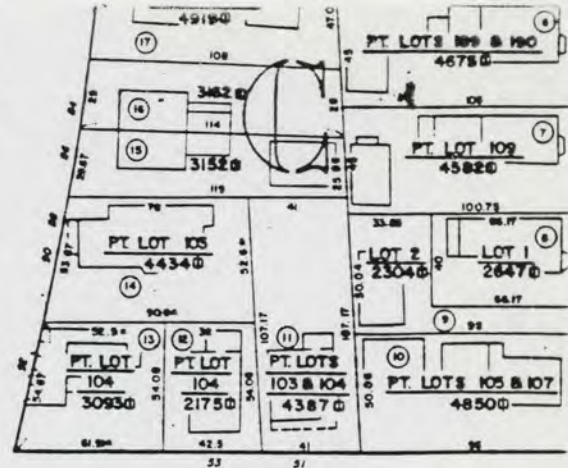
## **HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.**

Due to its proximity to Charlestown and Boston, parts of East Somerville were laid out for development in the early to mid 1800s and many Greek Revival houses remain as witness to this period of development. The early industries (Runey Pottery) and the Boston and Lowell railroad bisecting East Somerville in 1835 were contributing factors to this early development. Thus many of the new mid 19th century residents were Boston businessmen. By the 1860s and 1870s industrial growth of Somerville with factories (spike manufacturing, meat packing, etc.) near Washington Street, there was an influx of laborers and the need for additional housing, thus, East Somerville became densely populated with small narrow house lots, the sites of single and two-family housing. Later development by 1885 saw many larger brick and wood apartment houses on undeveloped lots in East Somerville.

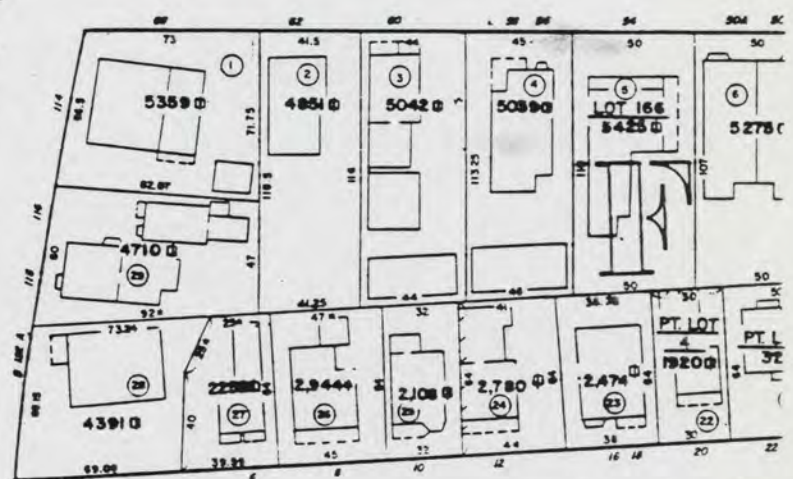
The Charles Williams House is an example of an early Italianate house built mid century for Boston hat dealer, Charles Williams who was a prominent citizen of the community. In later years his son lived at 1 Arlington Street another well conserved Italianate house.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

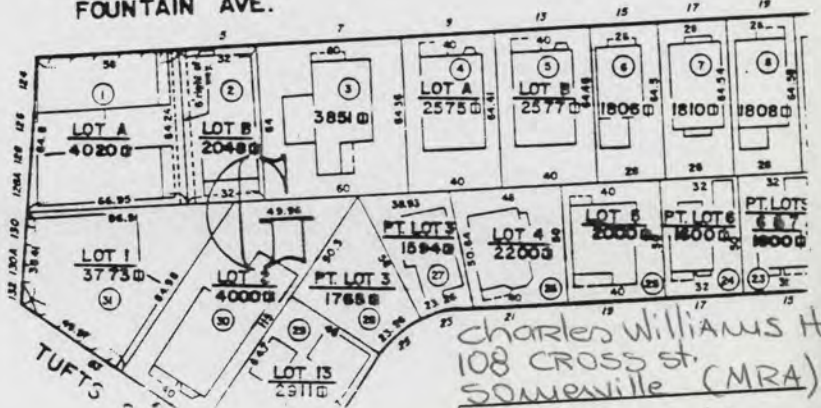
Draper, Martin, Map of Somerville, 1852  
Hopkins, G.M., Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1874.  
City Directories, 1869 - 1870s.



OLIVER ST.



FOUNTAIN AVE.



Charles Williams Ho  
108 CROSS St.  
SOMERVILLE (MRA)  
Mass.

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 GroupName Somerville MPS  
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

## Nomination/Type of Review

## Date/Signature

71. Tufts, Peter and Oliver, House  
Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

72. Warren, H., House  
Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

73. West Somerville Branch Library  
Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

74. Williams, Charles, House  
Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

75. Williams, Charles, Jr., House  
Substantive Reviewfor Keeper Beth L. Savage 9-18-89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

76. Williams, F.G., House  
Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

77. Worthen, Daniel, House  
Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

78. Wright House  
Entered in the  
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

79. Wyatt, George, House  
Substantive Reviewfor Keeper Beth L. Savage 9-18-89

Attest \_\_\_\_\_

80. Somerville Theatre

~~Entered in the~~  
~~National Register~~

Substantive Review

for Keeper Melvin Byrum 1/20/90Entered in the  
National Register

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Williams, Charles, House

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: 89001253

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

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CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count      \_\_\_resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic      \_\_\_current

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DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage      \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs      \_\_\_boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps    \_\_\_USGS maps    \_\_\_photographs    \_\_\_presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_



108 Cross

1. 108 Cross Street
2. Somerville, MA
3. C. Zellie
4. 1981
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking east
7. # 132

William's Charles House  
Somerville MA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253