

AUG 04 1989

1277

AREA

FORM NO.

157

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town SomervilleAddress 81 Pearl StreetHistoric Name unknownUse: Present residentialOriginal residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1860Source map research / visual analysisStyle ItalianateArchitect unknownExterior Wall Fabric clapboardOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition fairMoved no Date n/aAcreage less than one acre

Setting North side of urban residential
street in East Somerville among other
Italianate and Second Empire dwelling

Recorded by Gretchen G. SchulerOrganization Mass. Historical CommissionDate September, 1988

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

Z E N

UTM REFERENCE 19 - 328/360 - 4694/390USGS QUADRANGLE Boston NorthSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Benjamin Gage House retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with the mid to late-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 intact Italianate house is representative of the style of buildings constructed for housing in Somerville in the 1860s and 1870s. The two and one-half story, gable-end, three-bay dwelling retains its side-hall entrance paired doors, its raking cornice with wide returns and paired ornamental brackets, and its full length open porch with an unusual decorative cornice trim of scalloped arches and drop finials between columns supporting the porch.

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 the 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 Benjamin Gage House, built by 1869, is representative of the housing of the area. Many Italianate and Second Empire houses remain in the immediate area. This is one of the more elaborate examples that has survived in tact. Gage worked as a machinist.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

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	Entered in the National Register	for Keeper	Date/Signature
41. House at 42 Vinal Avenue	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	
42. House at 49 Vinal Avenue	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	
43. House at 5 Prospect Hill	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	
44. House at 6 Kent Court	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	
45. House at 72R Dane Street	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	
46. House at 81 Pearl Street	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	
47. Houses at 28--36 Beacon Street	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	
48. Ireland, Samuel, House	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	
49. Keyes, Amos, House	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	
50. Knight, R.A.--Eugene Lacount House	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <i>Shelous Byrnes</i>	9/18/89
		Attest _____	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY House at 81 Pearl Street
NAME:

MULTIPLE Somerville MPS
NAME:

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: 89001277

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



- House
1. at 81 Pearl Street
2. Somerville, MA
3. C. Zelke
4. 1980
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking north
7. #156

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253