

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

AREA	FORM NO.
	26/125-2

PHOTO: (3x3" or 3x5", black & white)
staple to left side of form

Photo number _____

SKETCH MAP

Show property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection. Indicate north.

See attached map.

Boston South Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 19/325590/4689670
Map #: 60

Recorded by Polk, Larkin, Benka
Organization Brookline Historical Com.
Date Summer 1978; update 5/85

Town Brookline MRA

Address 97 Sewall Avenue

Historic Name William Murphy House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1886

Source tax list

Style Queen Anne

Architect information not available

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings barn (shingled)

Major alterations (with dates) _____

No alteration permits on file

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage 14,861 sq.ft.

Setting One of three s.f. free stand-
ing houses in now densely populated
area; slightly larger than #103&104
but lot sizes and setbacks are sim-
lar.

(Staple additional sheets here)

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

This house and #s 103 and 109 have much larger lots than the houses at the other end of Sewall, probably reflecting the fact that the lots here were laid out and sold by the Stearns family - the other land had already been sold by them when the land was subdivided. Built about the same time as 109 and 76-8 Sewall Avenue, this house can be compared to 109 Sewall, both employing elaborate window treatment in the gables, varied shingle patterns, and front porches. This house has a rounded bay on the porch; 109 has a polygonal bay outside the porch. All of the details (porch columns, gable decorations) are more gracefully handled and more delicate here than at 109. Of particular note is the finely scaled and balanced grouping of the three gables in the front. The landscaping and the spacious "piazza" give the house a more rural appearance than its neighbors.

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

The original owner, Waldo Stearns, previously lived at the corner of Webster and Harvard Streets. He was treasurer of the A.T. Stearns Lumber Co which had offices at 2 Post Office Square and 470 Albany Street in Boston and wharves at Neponset. In 1930 the house was purchased by Dr. William Parry Murphy who, along with Dr. George Minot, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for their discovery of a cure for pernicious anemia.

Murphy was born in Wisconsin in 1892 and was graduated from the University of Oregon in 1914 and the Harvard Medical School in 1920. While serving as an intern at the Rhode Island Hospital, he was one of the first physicians to carry out laboratory exams of the blood which included blood counts. In 1922 he began his residency at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston and carried out preliminary clinical and laboratory studies of patients referred to Dr. Minot for diseases of the blood.

In making the award in 1934 the Nobel Prize Committee stated the the recipients in addition to developing a cure for this heretofore fatal form of anemia, had also discovered a unique fundamental principle involved in the normal capacity of the bone marrow to produce sufficient red blood corpuscles in man and other animals.

This property meets NR criteria B, being the home of Dr. William Murphy who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for discovering a cure for pernicious anemia in 1934, and criteria C as a well-preserved example of Queen Anne architecture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

- Brookline Atlases, 1884, 1888
- Brookline Tax lists, 1886-1888
- Brookline Directory, 1885-1887
- Boston Directory, 1886
- Proceedings of the Brookline Historical Society, 1969-1974. "Pernicious Anemia Yields to New England Character" by William Castle, p. 126.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received 9/1/85
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Brookline MRA
State MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review		Date/Signature
61. Milestone (Boylston St.)	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____
62. Murphy, William, House	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____
63. Orrock, Rev. John, House	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____
64. Paine Estate	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____
65. Perkins Estate	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____
66. Reservoir Park	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____
67. Ritchie Building	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____
68. Roughwood	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____
69. Saint Aidan's Church and Rectory	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____
70. Saint Mary of the Assumption Church, Rectory, School and Convent	Entered in the National Register	<i>for</i> Keeper <u><i>Delores Byers</i> 10/17/85</u> Attest _____

85003303

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Murphy, William, House (Brookline MRA)
Norfolk County
MASSACHUSETTS

Working No. SEP 4 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 10/3/85 - 10/19/85
Action: ACCEPT 10-17-85
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. 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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



97 Sewall Ave

William Murphy House

5/05

Brookline (Ma) USA

Brookline (Ma) MRA
97 Sewall Ave. 26/25-2
MURPHY, William H. C.
TOWN OF BROOKLINE MAP. JAN. 1911
1/2" = 200'

