

1228

AUG 04 1988

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA	FORM NO.
East Somerville	105

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
30 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Somerville MRA

Address 1 Arlington Street

Historic Name Charles Williams Jr. House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

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

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1858

Source map research

Style Italianate

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric aluminum siding

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) rear wing
mid to late Eastlake trim added
ca. 1888

Condition fair/good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting North west corner of Arlington
and Lincoln Sts., urban residential
neighborhood of late-19th century
Italianate and Second Empire houses

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation
Planner

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date May 1986

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 Z E N
19 - 328/610 - 4694/510

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Somerville, MA	Form No: 105
Property Name: Charles Williams, Jr. House	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

Historical Significance (Continued)

To test this new technology, a steady stream of people poured into Williams's shop to talk over the line to his wife and others in Somerville. People quickly impressed, and by May 1 of the same year, Williams had installed the world's first commercial telephone line from the State Street, Boston, Office of his friend Roswell C. Downer to his house a 170 Central Street, also in Somerville.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Charles Williams Jr. House is significant both historically and architecturally. **Primarily**, it is significant as the terminus of the first outdoor telephone line. **Equally** important is the building's architectural significance as a three-bay, center-gable Italianate house distinguished by an overlay of Eastlake trim, applied later in the 19th century. Retaining integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The Williams House fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places on the local level.

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

One Arlington Street is a center gable Italianate house (ca. 1858) with a later (ca. 1888) overlay of Eastlake style trim. The Eastlake-style remodelling was extensive and was applied to the interior as well as the exterior. The 2 1/2 story-rectangular-plan house was a 2 story side hall built in several successive stages. Notable features include the elaborate gable screen, the pedimented entrance porch with paired columns, and the oversacle window hoods or canopies above the windows of the lower story. These canopies are supported by Eastlake-style braces, and carry elaborate iron cresting.

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

One Arlington Street was the terminus of the world's first outdoor experimental telephone line. Charles Williams Jr., who bought the house in 1876 and lived there until his death in 1909, was an early protege of Alexander Graham Bell, and a major force in the early development of commercial telephone service. Bell and Watson's first telephone (of the early gallows type) was developed at Williams's electrical shop at 109 Court Street in Boston in 1875. Although they later moved to larger quarters at 5 Exeter Place in Boston, where the first complete sentence was spoken over the wire, the manufacturing of early telephones took place exclusively at 109 Court Street until Williams's business was transferred to the Western Electric Company in 1883.

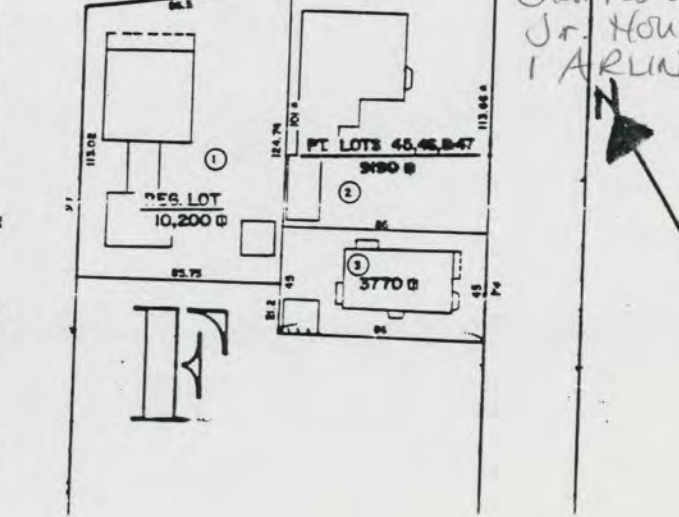
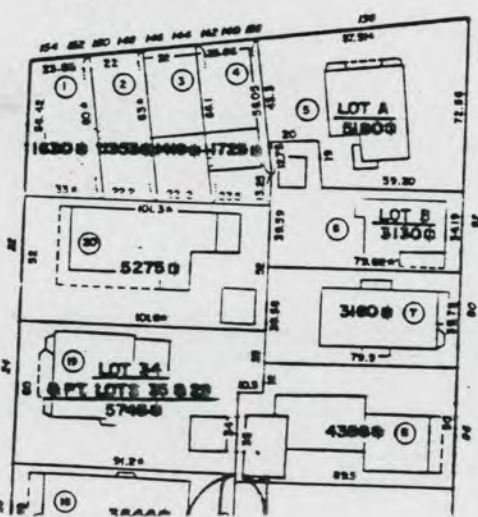
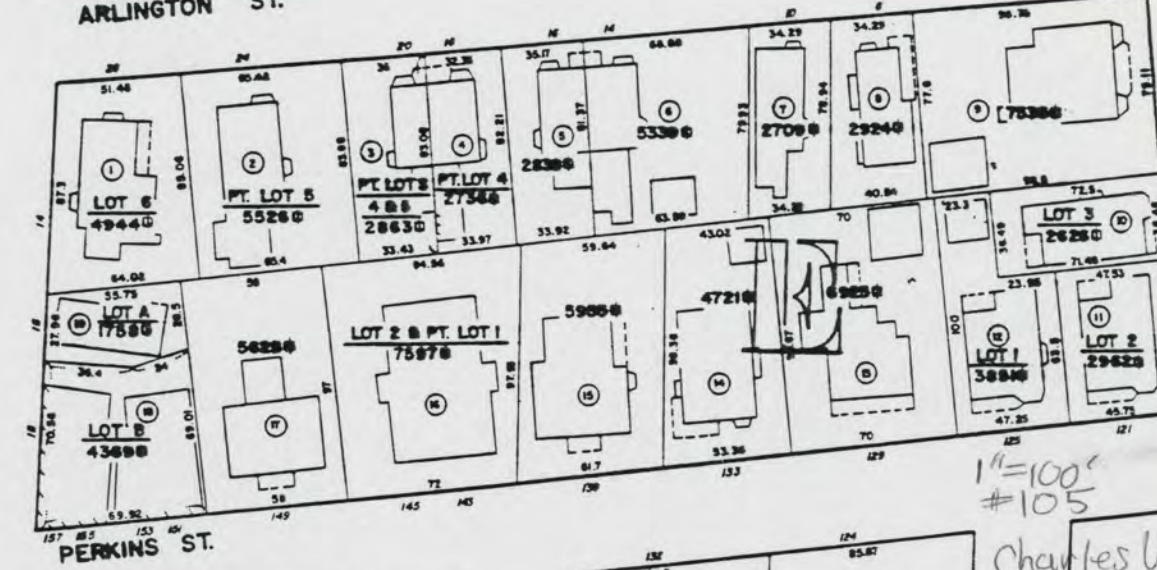
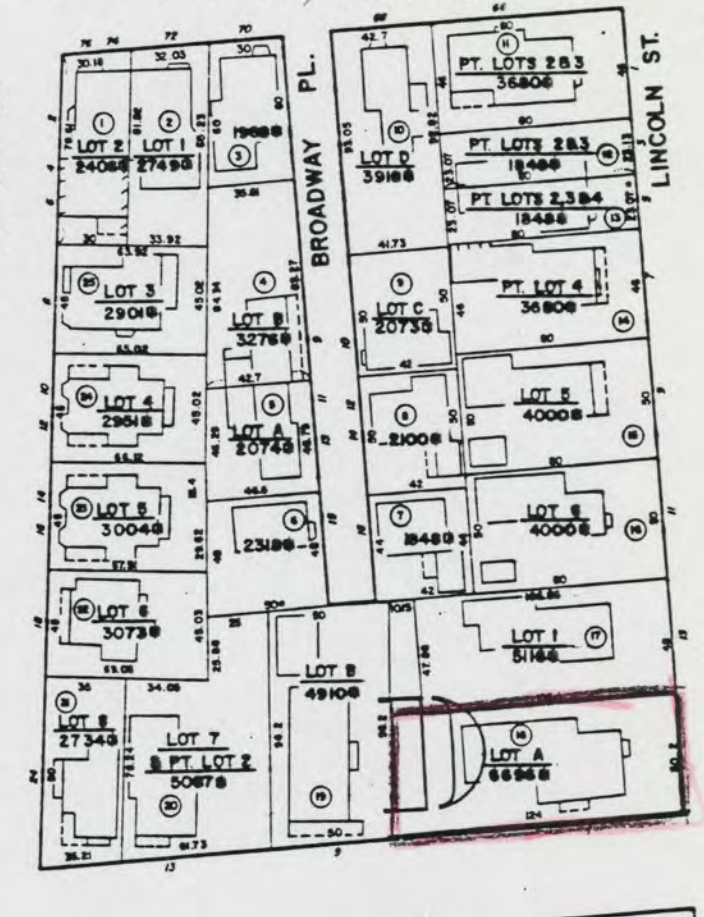
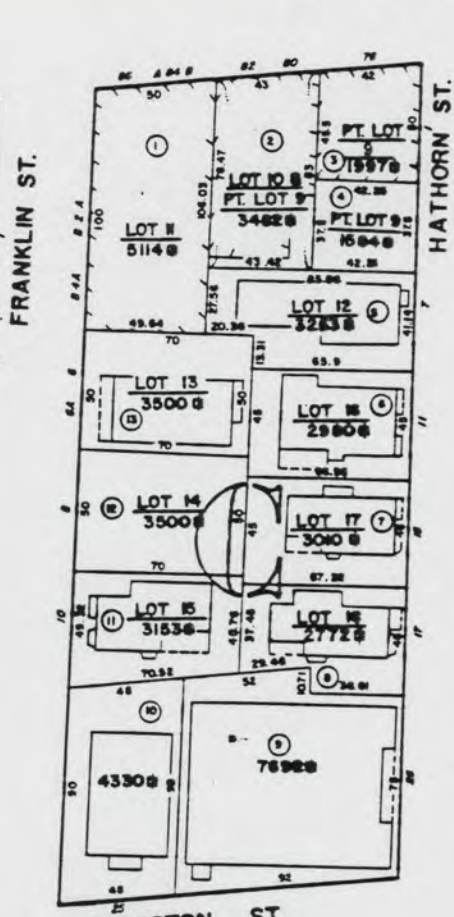
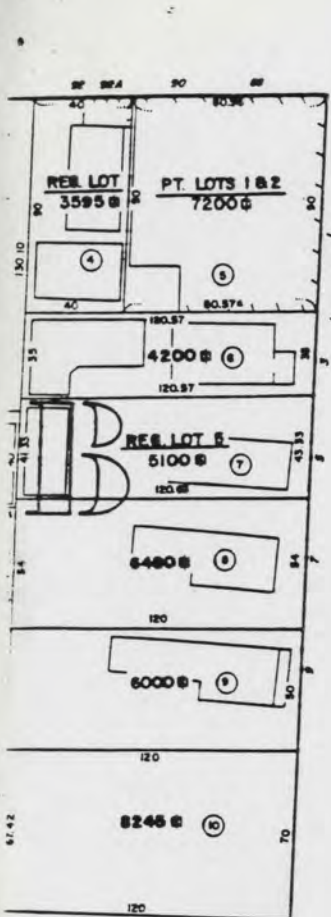
In early 1877, Williams arranged with Bell and a Mr. Hubbard to have the rights to manufacture telephones, and to lease them on a commission basis. On March 27 of that year work began on the world's first outdoor telephone line from Williams's 109 Court Street shop to his house at One Arlington Street in Somerville, a distance of three miles. Williams paid for the wire, the labor, and the house-top brackets. The line was finished on April 4, 1877.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1874

Beyond the Neck, The Architecture and Development of Somerville, Massachusetts
Office of Planning and Community Development, 1982.

#105 SOMERVILLE, MASS, MRA BROADWAY



1"=100'
#105
Charles Williams
Jr. House
1 ARLINGTON ST



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 Group

Name Somerville MPS
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
71. Tufts, Peter and Oliver, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	for Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
72. Warren, H., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	for Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
73. West Somerville Branch Library <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	for Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
74. Williams, Charles, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	for Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
75. Williams, Charles, Jr., House <i>Substantive Review</i>	for Keeper <u><i>Betty L. Savage</i></u> <u>9-18-89</u> Attest _____
76. Williams, F.G., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	for Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
77. Worthen, Daniel, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	for Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
78. Wright House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	for Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>9/18/89</u> Attest _____
79. Wyatt, George, House <i>Substantive Review</i>	for Keeper <u><i>Betty L. Savage</i></u> <u>9-18-89</u> Attest _____
80. Somerville Theatre <i>Entered in the National Register</i> <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u><i>Melrose Byrum</i></u> <u>1/20/90</u> <i>Entered in the National Register</i>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Williams, Charles, Jr., 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: 89001228

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: Y SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/18/89 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Intact Italianate residence
with later Castlake decorative
detailing. Also associated with
important developments in outdoor
telephone transmission lines.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C
REVIEWER Savage
DISCIPLINE Architectural History
DATE 9/18/89

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 _____



1 Arlington

1. 1 Arlington St

2. Somerville, MA

3. Carol Zelle

4. 1983

5. Somerville City Hall

6. looking southwest

7. #105

Williams, Charles J., 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