

FORM A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02116

Area Letter Form numbers in this Area

MV	MHC # 30 - 33 Map # MV-1 thru MV-7
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Town SomervilleName of Area (if any) Mt. VernonStreet Historic DistrictPresent Use residentialGeneral Date or Period ca. 1820 - 1880General Condition goodAcreage less than one acreRecorded by Gretchen G. SchulerOrganization Mass. Historical CommissionDate 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).

Resources:

7C / INC Buildings

See Attached Assessor's Map

M REFERENCE A 19 - 328/800 - 4694/520
B 19 - 328/820 - 4694/500
C 19 - 328/790 - 4694/430
D 19 - 328/760 - 4694/450
GS QUADRANGLE Boston North
SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Mt. Vernon Street Historic District retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association. It is Somerville's most intact collection of modest Greek Revival side-hall entrance dwellings and is associated with the mid-19th century increased population in East Somerville due to its proximity to Charlestown, Boston and the Boston and Maine Railroad. The Mt. Vernon Historic District 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 areas within the community.

The Mt. Vernon Street Historic District, a small area of seven buildings, is architecturally significant for its well-conserved examples of Somerville's circa 1850s Greek Revival cottages. Although the street and neighborhood are more densely populated the feeling evoked by a streetscape of the modest Greek Revival houses is retained. All seven houses were constructed by 1855. One pre-dates the Greek Revival buildings.

Of the seven houses, four are Greek Revival cottages of side-hall plans. The two and one-half story, three bay facades have full length porches carried by Doric-like columns. Full length first story windows are characteristic. The siding varies from clapboard, to flush board siding, to synthetic siding.

There is one non-contributing garage, built in the 1940s.

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

The Mt. Vernon Street Historic District is Somerville's largest and most intact collection of modest Greek Revival houses. The area has continued to grow with most development occurring in the late 1800s with the construction of double houses and small apartment houses many of brick.

Mt. Vernon Street was platted in 1845 and was situated near the Charlestown line and a passenger station of the Boston and Maine Railroad, built in 1835. The railroad brought businessmen and artisans from Boston and Charlestown into what was referred to as the "Neck", more recently known as East Somerville.

Among the early residents was Ebenezer Davis, (8 Mt. Vernon St.) a Boston Marine inspector and Harrison Hutchins, (16 Mt. Vernon St.) a bleachery employee.

Of the seven buildings included in the Mount Vernon Street Historic District, four are well-preserved examples of Somerville's c.1850's Greek Revival cottages. Also included are three other intact buildings from the period. These seven buildings have retained their form with little alteration.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

City Directories, City of Somerville, 1851, 1869, 1870s.
Draper, Martin, Map of Somerville, 1852.
Hopkins, G.M. Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1874.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Somerville

Form No:

Property Name: Mt. Vernon Street
District

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

Architectural Significance (cont.)

All four Greek Revival houses retain their massing, scale, and feeling. #16 and #20 Mt. Vernon Street are in a well conserved state, with clapboard siding, multi-light sash, and side-hall entrances with panelled doors and side lights.

Of an earlier period is 12B Mt. Vernon Street, a five-bay, two and one-half story, center entrance Federal house. It is representative of dwellings that preceded Greek Revival houses.

At 22-24 Mt. Vernon Street is a fine example of the types of housing built in the late 1800s. The Second Empire double house with a mansard roof was part of the evolution towards apartment houses in response to the growing need for housing at the end of the 19th century.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Form No:

Somerville, MA

Property Name: Mt. Vernon tSt. Hist. Dist.

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

8 Mount Vernon St. -Ebenezer Davis House

Architecture: Well preserved 2 and 1/2 story Greek Revival sidehall full width doric portico, panelled corner pillasters full length windows on the lower story.

Historical Significance: Ebenezer Davis was the first resident of 8 Mt. Vernon St. he was a marine inspector in Boston. He was one of the early members of the East Somerville community, as his name appears on an 1852 map of the area.

12 Mt. Vernon St. - Henry Howard House

Architecture: Although synthetic siding has been applied, the Henry Howard House is another example of the Greek Revival Style. The house maintains massing with three bays fenestration of 6/6 sash, templar gable end and side hall entrance.

Historical Significance: Henry Howard of Boston owned this lot and the two houses on it. The other house pre-dates this Greek Revival building.

12A Mt. Vernon St. - Henry Howard House

Architecture: Situated at the rear of the lot, this five bay center entrance Greek Revival House has design similar to that of the house at the front of the lot.

Historical Significance: Henry Howard of Boston owned this lot and the two houses on it. This house pre-dates the other Greek Revival House on this lot, it was probably a rental property.

16 Mt. Vernon St. -Harrison M. Hutchins House

Architecture: Distinguished by the other Greek Revival Houses on the Street, by the retention of all its details and finishes. Full width Doric porch, floor length facade windows on the lower story, 6/6 double hung sash on the upper story.

Historical Significance: Harrison Hutchins was the original owner of the house. He was a whitener, working at a bleachery. The house has remained in the family until 1985, which is the time of this research.

continued

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: Somerville, MA	Form No:
Property Name: Mt. Vernon St. Hist. Dist.	

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

20 Mt. Vernon St.

Architecture: Unique from the other Greek Revival Houses in this District because it has flush board siding, which assimilates ashlar masonry. The facade is divided into 3 bays by means of applied pilasters. The building has a side hall entrance and all windows are 6/6 sash.

Historical Significance: This house is included for its architectural significance.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

SOMERVILLE MRA - DATA SHEETS

MT. VERNON HISTORIC DISTRICT

MAP#	MHC #	HISTORIC NAME	ADDRESS	DATE	STYLE	TYPE	STATUS
MV-1	30	Ebenezer Davis House garage	8 Mt. Vernon St.	ca.1850 ca.1940	Greek Revival Colonial Revival	B B	C NC
MV-2	31	Henry Howard House	12 Mt. Vernon St.	ca.1850	Greek Revival	B	C
MV-3	31	-	12R Mt. Vernon St.	ca.1820	Federal/Greek Rev.	B	C
MV-4	33	H.M. Hutchins House	16 Mt. Vernon St.	ca.1850	Greek Revival	B	C
MV-5		-	18 Mt. Vernon St.	ca.1850	Italianate	B	C
MV-6		-	20 Mt. Vernon St.	ca.1850	Greek Revival	B	C
MV-7		-	22-24 Mt. Vernon St.	ca.1880	Second Empire	B	C

7C / INC B = Buildings

1Acre (apx.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Sanerville, MAss

Form No:

Property Name: Mt. Vernon St. Hist. Dist.

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

8 Mt. Vernon St.

12 Mt. Vernon St.

12A (REAR)
Mt. Vernon St.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Somerville, MASS.

Form No:

Property Name: Mt. Vernon

St. Hist. Dist.

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

16 Mt. Vernon St. -Street Scape-

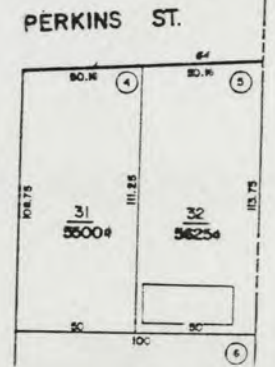
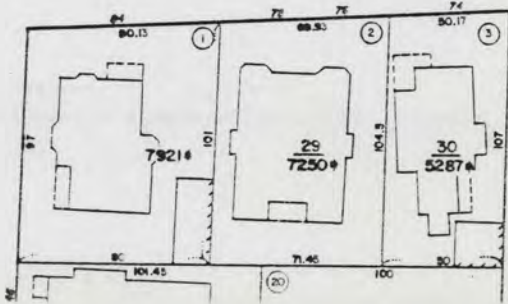
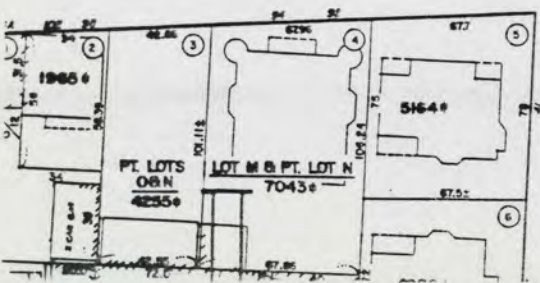
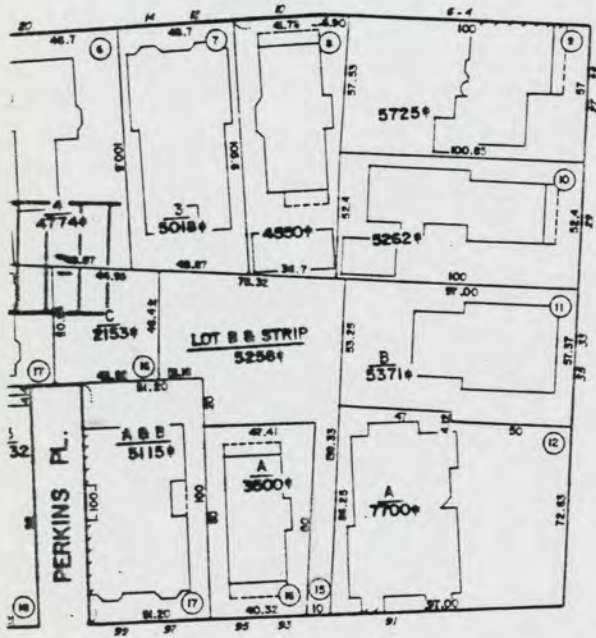
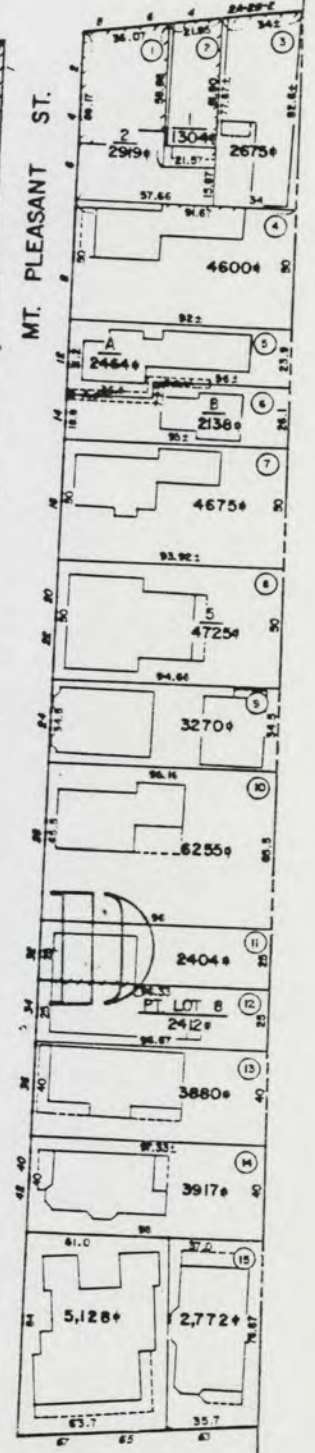
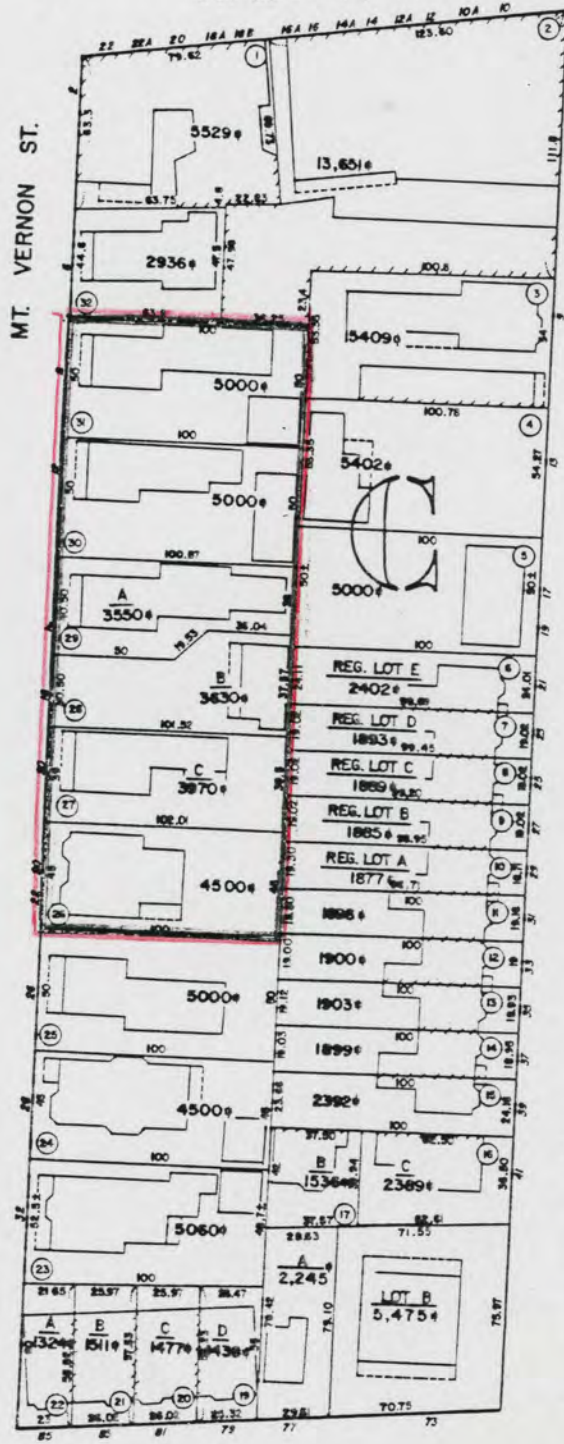
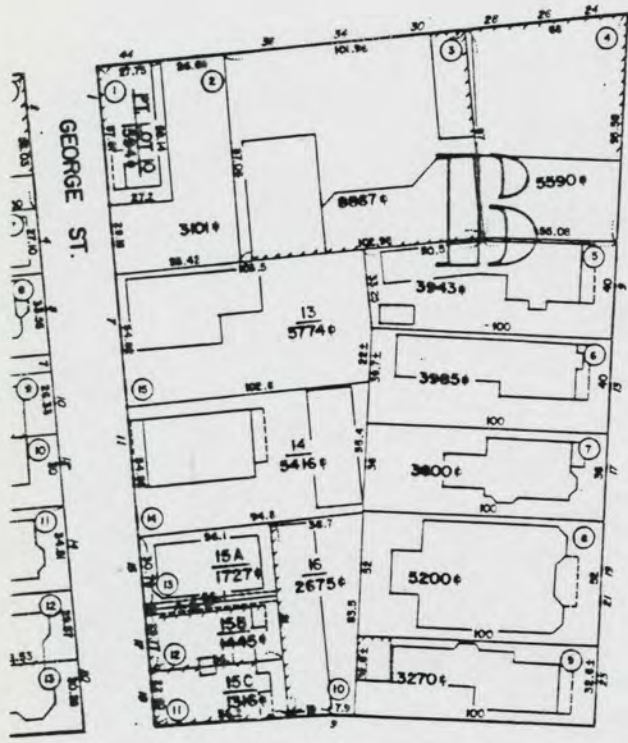
20 Mt. Vernon St.

Staple to Inventory form at bottom



1"=100'
Mt Vernon H.D. (MRA)
Somerville, Mass

BROADWAY



United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational 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

Cover

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 9-18-89

1. Dow, L.W., Farmhouse

Substantive Review

for Keeper Eligible Beth L. Savage 9-18-89
Determined Eligible

Attest

2. Hollingsworth, Robert, House

Substantive Review

for Keeper Eligible Beth L. Savage 9-18-89
Determined Eligible

Attest

3. House at 437 Somerville Avenue

Substantive Review

for Keeper Eligible Beth L. Savage 3/12/90
Determined Eligible

Attest

4. House at 53 Hudson Street

Substantive Review

for Keeper Eligible 9-18-89 Beth L. Savage
Determined Eligible

Attest

5. Mentzner, W.C., House

Substantive Review

for Keeper Eligible 9-18-89 Beth L. Savage
Determined Eligible

Attest

6. Sparrow, Edmund, House

Substantive Review

for Keeper Eligible 9-18-89 Beth L. Savage
Determined Eligible

Attest

7. Mt. Vernon Street Historic District

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Helena Byers 9/18/89

Attest

8. Spring Hill Historic District

Substantive Review

for Keeper Beth L. Savage 9-18-89

Attest

9. Westwood Road Historic District

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Helena Byers 9/18/89

Attest

10. Adams, Charles--Woodbury Locke House

Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Helena Byers 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 NAME: Mt. Vernon Street Historic District

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: 89001223

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
___UTMs ___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. 8 Mt. Vernon Street ^{H/M}
2. Somerville, ^{MA} MA
3. C. Zelke
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking east
7. MV AREA #30



1. 12 Mt. Vernon street ^{MT} 410
2. Somerville, MA ^{MRT}
3. C 2ellie
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking east
7. MV area # 31



1. 12 A Mt. Vernon St H.N
2. Somerville, MA ^{MRT}
3. C. Zellie
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking east
7. # 31A MV Area



Mt. Vernon St. Historic District
Mt. Vernon St

1. Mt. Vernon Street scene
2. Somerville, MA
3. C. Zellie
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. Looking north
7. Area form - MV

Mt. Vernon Street. H.D.

Somerville MA, MA



1. 20 Mt. Vernon St. ⁴¹⁰
2. Somerville, ^{MRA} MA
3. C. Zellie
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking east
7. MV area #32



Mt. Vernon St. Historic District Somerville MA, MA
Mt. Vernon St.

1. Mt. Vernon Streetscape
2. Somerville, MA
3. C Zelle
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. Looking north
7. Area Form - MV

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253

May 15, 1989

RECEIVED ^{MS-41}

JUN 7 1989

To: Massachusetts Historical Commission

Dear Ms. Friedberg:

MASS. HIST. COMM.

I am writing you in response to your letter to me Dated May 8, 1989, informing me that my property at 22-24 Mt. Vernon Street was being nominated to the National Register.

I want you to know I am strongly against it. I do not want my property at 22-24 Mt. Vernon Street, Somerville listed as a Historical Place.

To describe the building to you, I think would put any idea in your mind to rest as far as to its historical value. Starting at the top, the slate roof leaks in many places and it is missing many slates. The windows on the mansard are rotted beyond repair. The body of the house is covered in flaking asbestos shingles and the double front doors are split and broken, due to years of neglect. I have proposed to the Office of Planning and Community Development to strip off the old roof and close the windows in aluminium and strip of the asbestos and replace with vinyl siding. Now, it is the policy of the Somerville Historical Commission not to list properties which do not wish to be on the Register.

This property does not appear on the list of Somerville Historical properties.

Therefore, the only thing that will be accomplished by listing 22-24 Mr. Vernon Street, Somerville, will be to stop me from receiving Federal matching funds for the work I want to do.

Estimated costs to restore slats on roof, to restore windows on mansard and to restore to clapboard shingles on body of building along with the front doors, total cost \$75,000 to \$100,000. This would place an extreme economic hardship on myself. Therefore, I hope that you will reconsider and not list on the National Register.

*I JAMES M VENEZIANO, TRUSTEE OF
THE MT VERNON REALTY TRUST
AFFIRM. THAT I HOLD LEGAL
TITLE TO 22-24 MT VERNON
ST, SOMERVILLE, MASS.*

James M. Veneziano
James M. Veneziano
Trustee, Mt. Vernon
Realty Trust

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Middlesex County ss: On this 6th day of June 1989 before me personally appeared James M. Veneziano, and acknowledged the foregoing to be his free act and deed.

My Commission expires: Sept. 2, 1994

Carol Kane
Notary Public