

AUG 04 1989

1295

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
30 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
Prospect Hill	177

Town Somerville MRA

Address 45 Walnut Street

Historic Name Louville Niles House

Use: Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1890

Source Samuels, Somerville, Past and Present

Style Queen Anne

Architect Edwin K. Blaikie

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting The Niles House occupies a prominent site on Prospect Hill, an urban residential neighborhood.

Situated on northeast corner of Walnut and Munroe Streets.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date May 1985

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

TM REFERENCE Z E N 19 - 327/470 - 4694/220

SGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Louville Niles House, one of the most stylish and best-preserved examples of the Queen Anne style in the City of Somerville, retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Historically the property is significant for its associations with Louville Niles, a successful Boston provisioner who was active in Somerville real estate during the city's peak growth years. Significant in his own right, Niles also typified the middle-class resident/entrepreneur who built comfortable homes in Somerville in the late-19th century. The Louville Niles House thus 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.

The Louville Niles House is significant as one of the best-preserved examples of the Queen Anne style in the city. The Niles House was designed by Edwin K. Blankie was trained at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and was active in residential and commercial construction in 1870s. Included among his other Somerville residences at 97 Munroe Street. Notable features are the conical tower with its copper finial, the half timbered gables, and asymmetrical massing of the design. A mix of patterned shingles and clapboard add dynamism to the building. The front gable contains a small oriel window.

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

Louville Niles was born in North Way, Maine in January 1839, and came to Boston in 1860. In 1870 he formed a partnership with his two brothers in the provision business under the name Niles Brothers. In 1896 it was merged with the Boston Packing and Provision Company. Niles moved from Boston to Somerville in 1882 and purchased the Bradshaw estate on Walnut Street, which extended from Munroe to Boston Street. In 1890, the nominated property was erected on the site, one of the last prestigious single-family homes built on Prospect Hill.

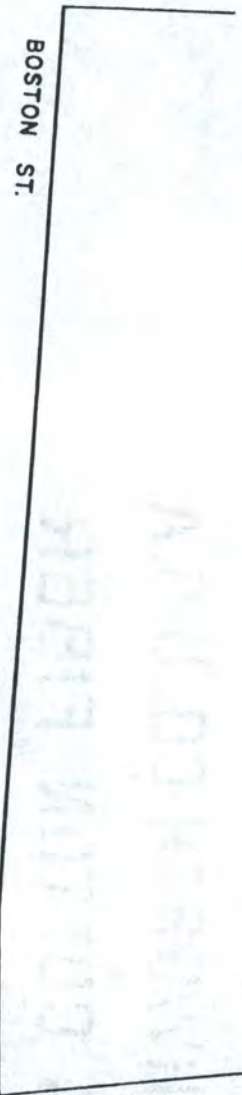
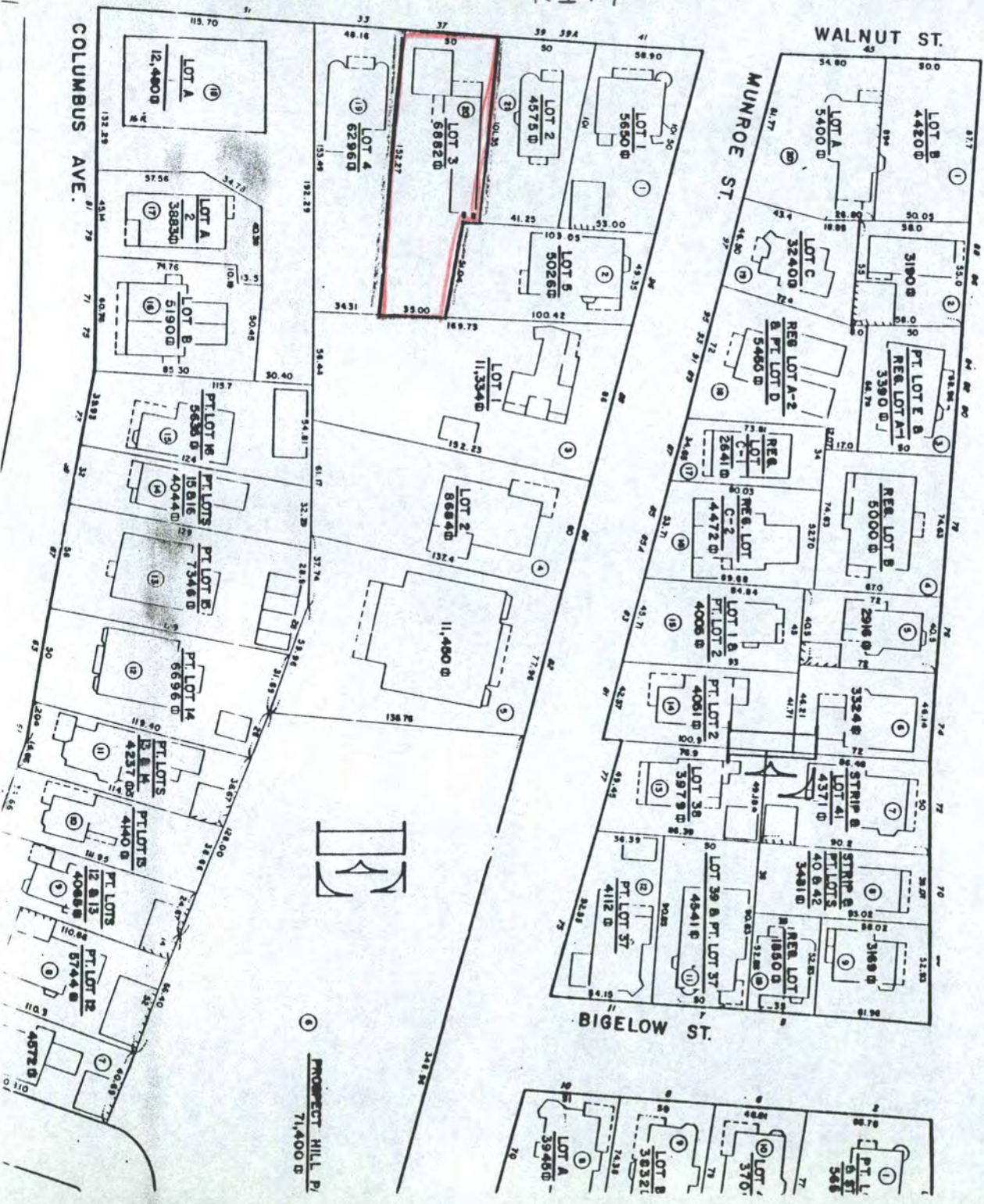
Niles was active as a developer of real estate in the Prospect Hill area in the 1890s. He was typical of Prospect Hills late-19th century residents, a Boston merchant who commuted from this pleasant suburban neighborhood into the city by convenient public transportation.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

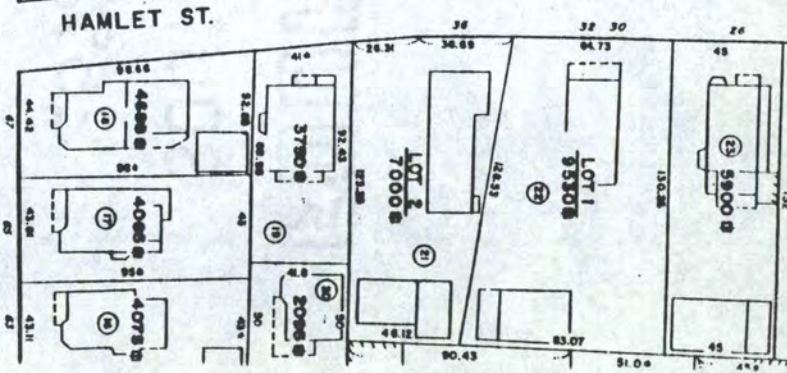
Samuel, Somerville, Past and Present

1"=100

#177



louville Wiles
 45 walnut st.
 Somerville (MRA), Mass.



PROJECT HILL P
 71,400 D

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
51. Langmaid Building Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
52. Langmaid Terrace Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
53. Lockhardt, Charles H., House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
54. Loring, George, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
55. Lovejoy, A.L., House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
56. Munroe, Robert, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
57. Mystic Water Works Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
58. Nichols, John F., House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
59. Niles, Louville V., House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
60. Niles, Louville, House Entered in the National Register	Keeper <u>Melrose Byers</u> 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: Niles, Louville, 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: 89001295

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

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



45 Walnut

1. 45 Walnut Street
2. Somerville, ^{MRA} MA
Niles Leaville, Vice
3. C. Zelle
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking northeast
7. #177

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253