

1260

## FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

Central Hill	139
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Highland Ave.  
Area

Town Somerville MRAAddress 66 Highland AvenueHistoric Name The HighlandUse: Present apartment houseOriginal apartment house

## DESCRIPTION

Date 1892Source map researchStyle Richardsonian RomanesqueArchitect Samuel D. KelleyExterior Wall Fabric brick/Connecticut brown-stone trimOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition goodMoved no Date n/aAcreage less than one acre

Setting South side of main thoroughfare facing institutional district of Somerville at Central Hill, Library, High School & City Hall - urban setting.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation PlannerOrganization Mass. Historical CommissionDate June 1986

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 Map

UTM REFERENCE Z 19 - 327/390 - N 4694/520

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

**NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Highland, one of Somerville's most elegant late-19th century apartment blocks, retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Historically, the building is significant as a direct result of Somerville's vast development as a popular Boston bedroom community at the turn of the century. The Highlands architectural significance lies in its well-proportioned Richardsonian Romanesque design. The building 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 Highland, is one of Somerville's outstanding late nineteenth century apartment buildings and a fine example of the Richardsonian, Romanesque style. A corner tower with slate-covered conical roof and a low-hung Romanesque entrance arch are significant features of the masonry design. The brownstone-trimmed brick buildings were finished with marble entrances, tile floors, and oak trim. Its prominent corner site atop Central Hill offered excellent views of Boston and beyond.

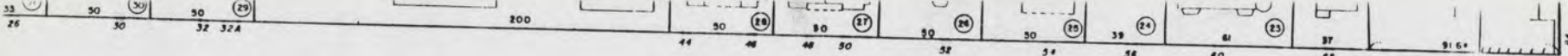
**HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.**

The Highland's architect was Boston-based Samuel Dudley Kelley, a noted designer of apartment buildings. Kelley's 1892 building was well-advertised throughout the Boston area as Somerville's leading apartment house. The twelve suites, commanded a view of Central Hill Park, City Hall, and the surrounding area. Advertisers of the hotel commended the location, which was near the Winter Hill Station, providing 88 trains per day to Boston.

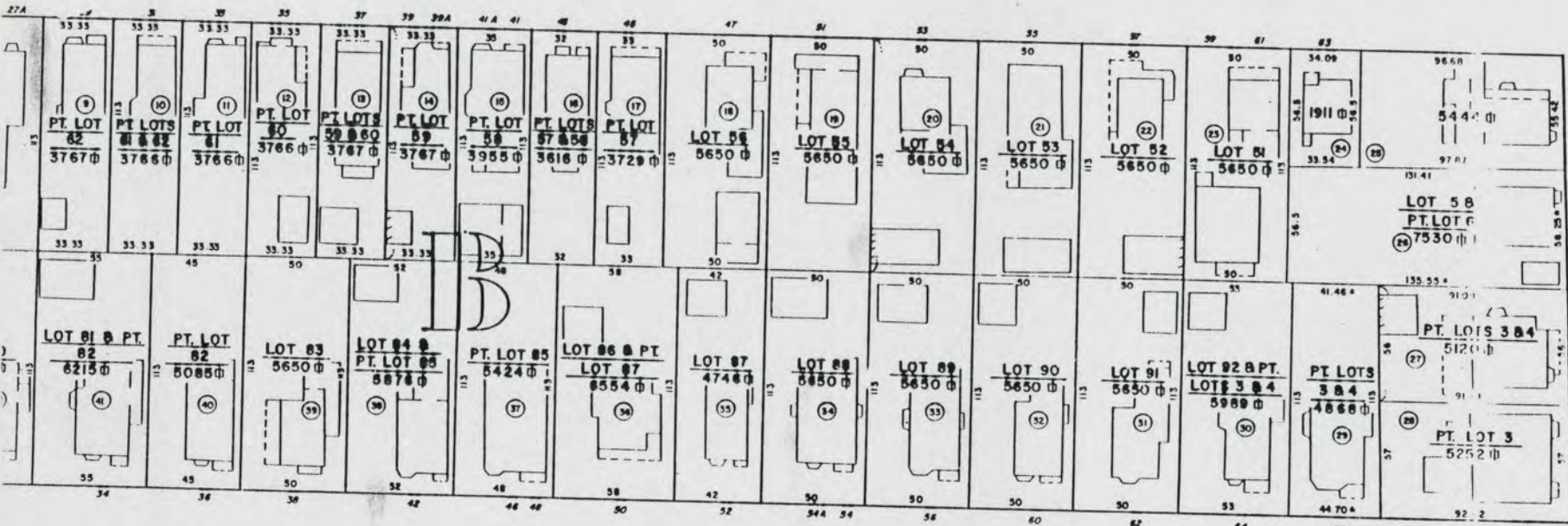
**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

1892 Somerville Journal Souvenir

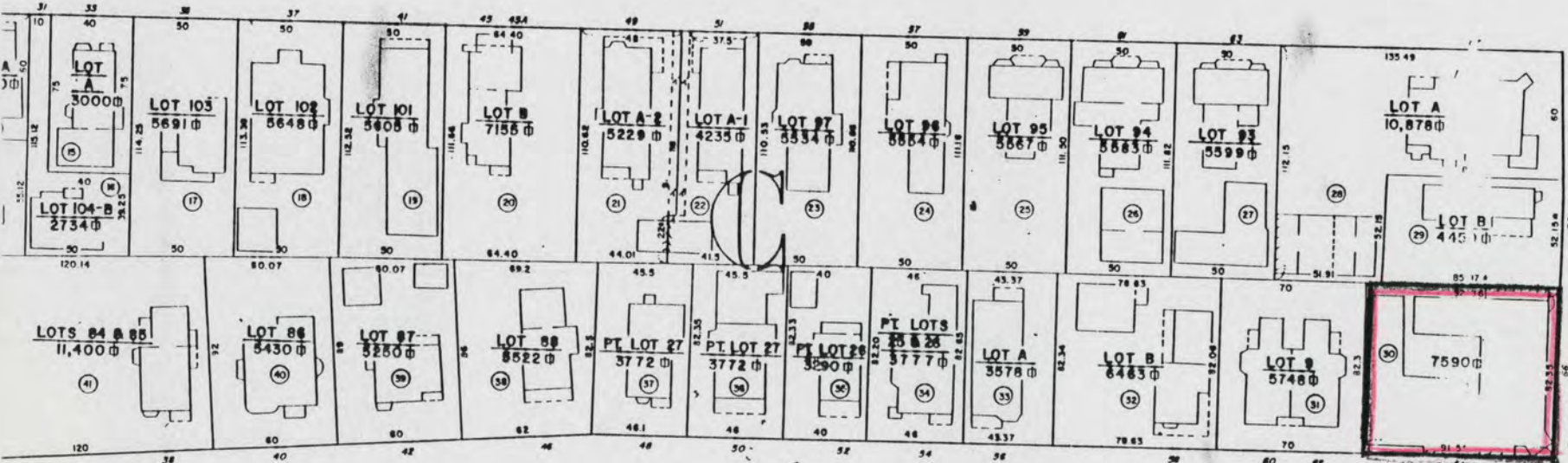
1895 Bromley, G. W. Atlas of the City of Somerville



PRESCOTT ST.



PUTNAM ST.



VINAL AVE.

HIGHLAND AVE.

CITY L.M.  
CENSUS  
PARCEL  
STREET  
RIGHT OF  
BLOCK  
LOT NO.  
PARCE  
HOUSE  
SQUARE  
DIMENSK

The Highland  
66 Highland ave  
Somerville (MRA), Mass.

1" = 100'  
# 139

IT AVE.

SANT ST.

VIEW AVE.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

21. Crowell, C.C., House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper *Arlene Byers* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

22. Downer Rowhouses (Adams Street) *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper *Arlene Byers* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

23. Downer Rowhouses (Central Street) *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper *Arlene Byers* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

*sub* 24. First Unitarian Church *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper *Betty L. Savage* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

*sub* 25. First Universalist Church *Substantive Review* *for* Keeper *Betty L. Savage* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

26. Foster, Alexander, House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper *Arlene Byers* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

27. Gaut, Samuel, House *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper *Arlene Byers* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

28. Grandview, The *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper *Arlene Byers* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

29. Highland, The *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper *Arlene Byers* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

30. Hollander Blocks *Entered in the National Register* *for* Keeper *Arlene 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 Highland, The  
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: 89001260

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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTMs       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



66 Highland

1. 66 Highland Ave
2. Somerville, MA
3. Carol Zelle
4. 1980
5. Somerville City Hall
6. Looking southwest
7. # 139

Highland, The  
Somerville MRA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253