

1270

FORM B - BUILDING

AUG 04 1989

AREA

FORM NO.

Spring
Hill

150

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Somerville MRAAddress 45 Laurel StreetHistoric Name Alexander Foster House

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

Use: Present multi-family residenceOriginal residence

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1860Source map researchStyle Italian VillaArchitect noneExterior Wall Fabric clapboardOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition Excellent

See Attached Assessor's Map

Moved no Date n/aAcreage Less than one acre.

Setting The Foster House is located on
the southern slope of Spring Hill in
an urban residential area.

Z E N

UTM REFERENCE 19 - 326/780 - 4694/410USGS QUADRANGLE Boston NorthSCALE 1:25,000Recorded by Betsy FriedbergOrganization Massachusetts Historical Comm.Date May 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

As one of the first and best-preserved high style Italianate villas in Somerville, the Alexander Foster House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and fulfills Criterion 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 Alexander Foster House is significant as the city's best-conserved example of an Italianate villa. The square-towered house is modelled on the country residences of rural Italy. It is typical of the pattern book villas inspired by the publications of Andrew Jackson Downing. Notable features include the paired brackets, short gable returns, panelled corner pilasters and oculus window in the gable. The 6/6 windows have bracketed lintels and sills. The full-width front porch has quadrant struts.

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

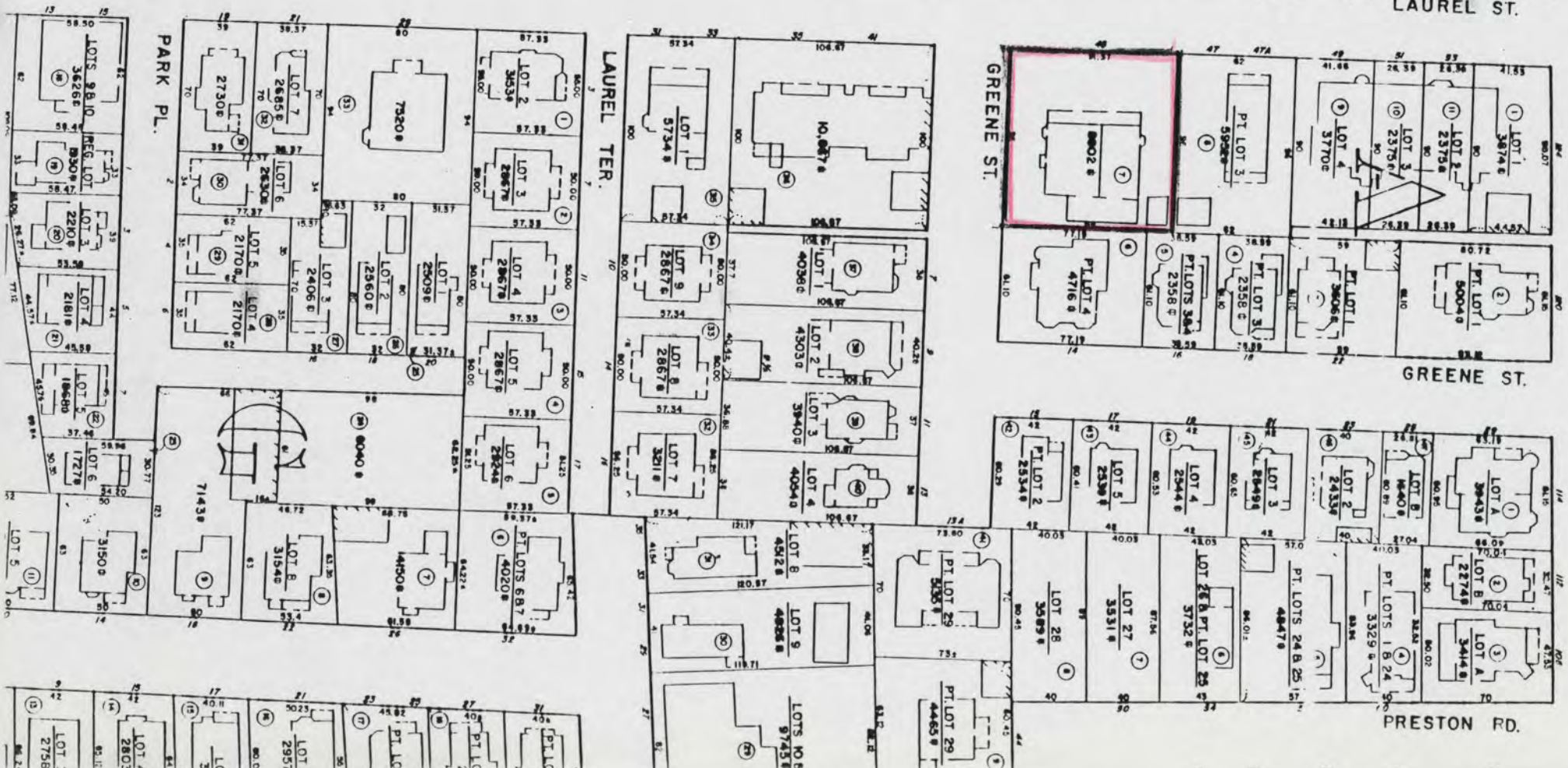
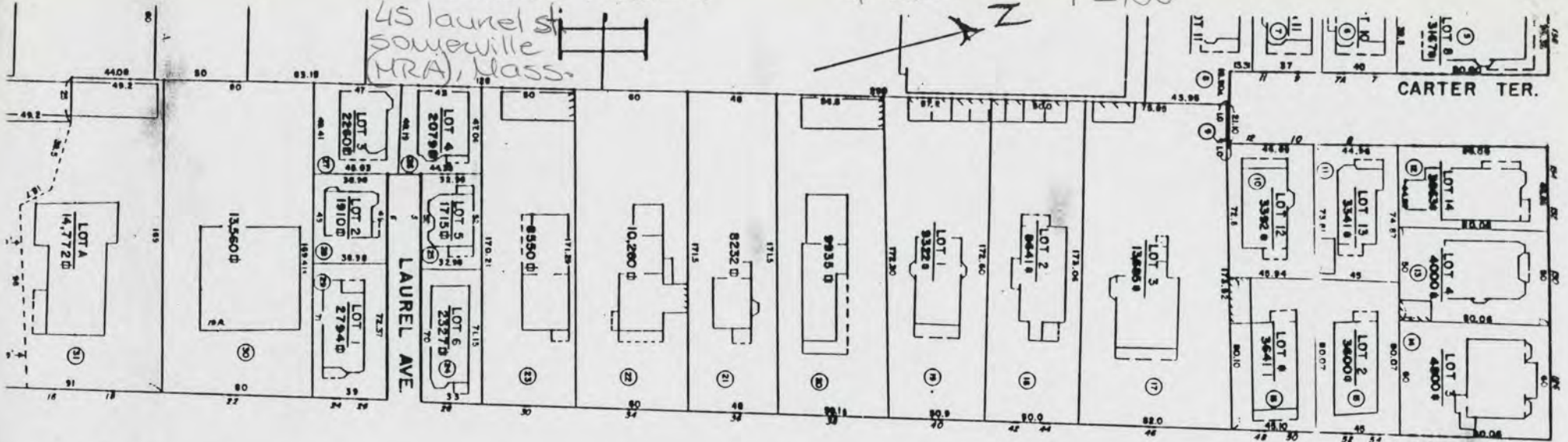
Alexander Foster and his son, Alexander Foster II, were Boston lumber dealers. Such businessmen were among the first settlers of the Spring Hill area. Laurel Street was platted in 1843 but was not substantially built on until much later. Foster was among the first to build an Italianate Villa on Spring Hill's southern slope. Few of the Spring Hill's early high-style houses have survived in such near-original condition. Subsequent development of Laurel Street was varied, several brick apartment rows, a few small workers houses and several two-family houses were added by 1900.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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

Alexander Foster
45 Laurel St.
Somerville
MRA, Mass.

#150
1"=100'



SEMIAL 211221

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

21. Crowell, C.C., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

22. Downer Rowhouses (Adams Street)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

23. Downer Rowhouses (Central Street)

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

24. First Unitarian Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth L. Savage 9/18/89

Attest _____

25. First Universalist Church

Substantive Review

Keeper

Beth L. Savage 9/18/89

Attest _____

26. Foster, Alexander, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

27. Gaut, Samuel, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

28. Grandview, The

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

29. Highland, The

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

30. Hollander Blocks

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Melrose Byrum 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 Foster, Alexander, House
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: 89001270

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 _____



45 Laurel

1. 45 Laurel St.
2. Somerville, MA
3. C. Zellie
4. 1983
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking east
7. #150

Festo, Alexander, Hux
Somerville, MA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253