

AUG 04 1989

1274

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA

FORM NO.

Central Hill 141

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Town Somerville

Address 79 Highland Avenue

Historic Name Central Library

Use: Present Library

Original Library

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 1914

Source Documents

Style Second Renaissance Revival

Architect Edward Lippincott Tilton

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

Outbuildings none

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

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

renovation 1970s: some entry alterations interior alteration

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting on Central Hill views to Medford and Union Square.

UTM REFERENCE Z E N 19 -327/580 - 4694/520

USGS QUADRANGLE BOSTON NORTH

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date June 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Central Library Somerville, is a finely proportional architect-designed building in the Second Renaissance Revival style. In plan and detail, the building displays the influence of the work of McKim, Mead, and White upon its architect, Edward Tilton. Its construction on Central Hill in 1914 was part of a 50-year municipal building program and is significant as a reflection of the city's vast growth at the turn of the century, as well as its concern for providing its residents with urban amenities. Retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The library 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.

This two-story yellow brick library is a fine example of the Renaissance Revival style. Architect Edward Tilton's experience with the firm of McKim, Mead and White shows in the building's relationship to the design for the Boston Public Library. The truncated hipped roof is finished with green pan tiles. Nine bays wide, the building is lit on its second story by large round-arched windows. Classical trim includes terra cotta panels and limestone window surrounds, stringcourses, and quoins. The center entry is ornamented with a shallow Doric-columned porch supporting an elaborate terracotta shield.

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

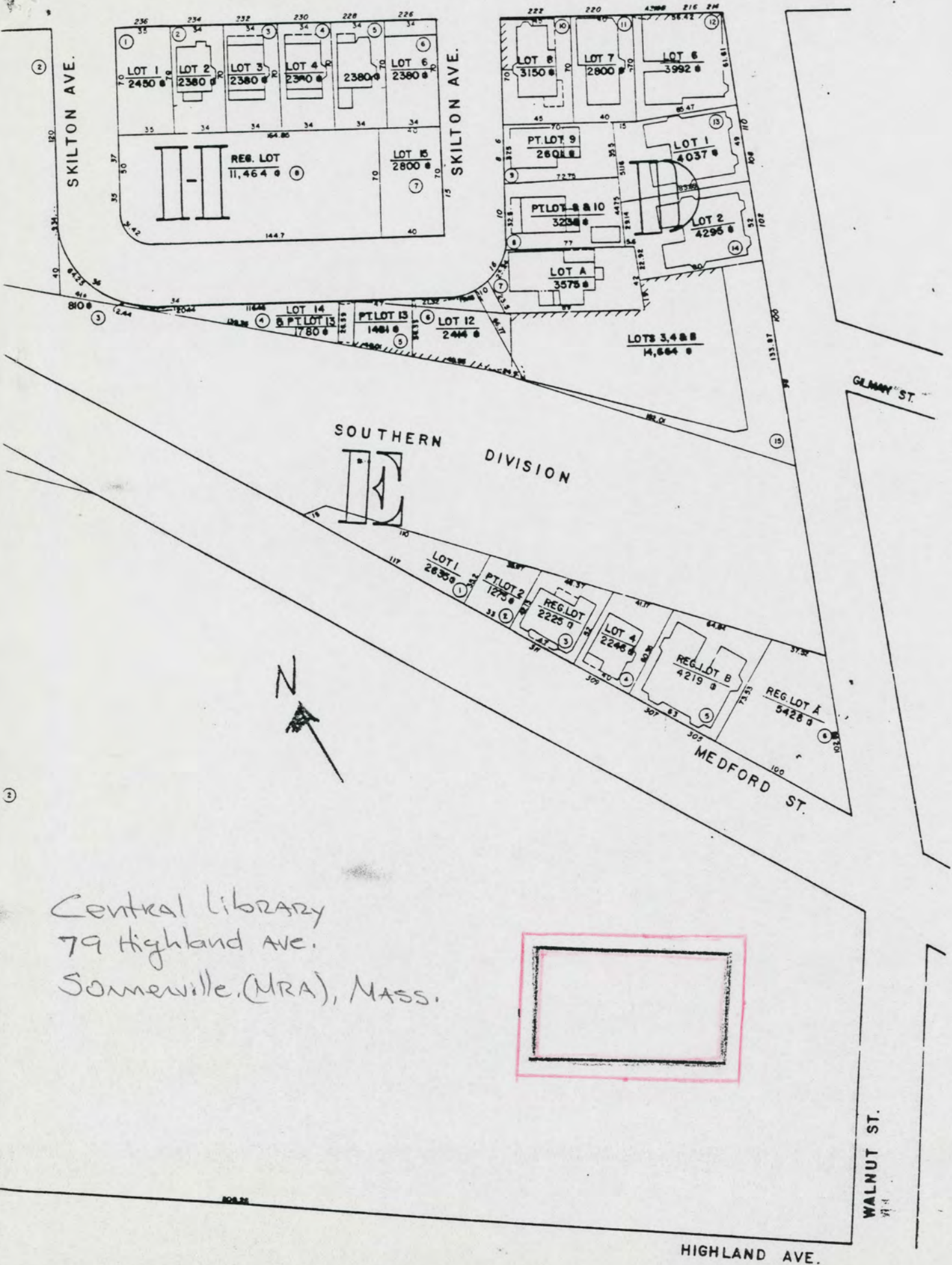
The Central Library site was formerly occupied by the Somerville's first engine house, built in 1871 and designed by well-known architect Shepard S. Woodcock, a Somerville resident. The outstanding Victorian Gothic fire station one of the first municipal structures on Central Hill Park was demolished for construction of the library. An earlier Romanesque library (1884) was located on the park near the present-day City Hall. That building was one of the first commissions of prominent architect George A. Loring; it, too, was demolished. The Central Hill site has always been devoted to civic and religious buildings.

The Central Library is representative of the scale of civic structures created by nationally-known architects around the turn of the century. Its architect, Edward L. Tilton (1861-1933) was a noted designer of "modern" public libraries; he was commissioned for the Somerville Public Library shortly before the First World War. Born in New York, Tilton was trained at the Ecole des Beaux Arts Parish. He worked for McKim, Mead, and White in New York prior to establishing his own practice with William A. Boring. Boring and Tilton produced the Ellis Island Immigrant Station in 1900 they were noted as designers of "modern" public libraries. Springfield, Massachusetts, is the site of another Tilton library.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

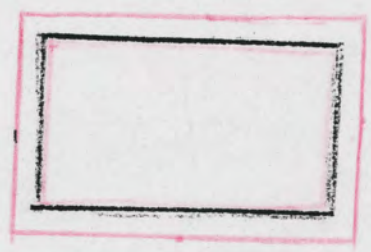
Newspaper file, Somerville Historical Society
City of Somerville Records.

1" = 100'



CITY
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Central Library
79 Highland Ave.
Somerville (MRA), Mass.



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

- 11. Adams--Magoun House Entered in the National Register Keeper Andrew Byers 9/18/89
Attest _____
- 12. Bacon, Clifton, House Entered in the National Register Keeper Andrew Byers 9/18/89
Attest _____
- 501 13. Barnes, Walter S. and Melissa E., House Substantive Review Keeper John J. Savage 3/8/90
Attest _____
- 14. Brackett, S.E., House Entered in the National Register Keeper Andrew Byers 9/18/89
Attest _____
- 15. Broadway Winter Hill Congregational Church Entered in the National Register Keeper Andrew Byers 9/18/89
Attest _____
- 16. Brooks, James H., House Entered in the National Register Keeper Andrew Byers 9/18/89
Attest _____
- 17. Central Library Entered in the National Register Keeper Andrew Byers 9/18/89
Attest _____
- 18. Cliff, Z.E., House Entered in the National Register Keeper Andrew Byers 9/18/89
Attest _____
- 19. Cook, Thomas, House Entered in the National Register Keeper Andrew Byers 9/18/89
Attest _____
- 20. Cooper--Davenport Tavern Wing Entered in the National Register Keeper Andrew 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 Central Library
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: 89001274

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 _____



79 Highland

1. 79 Highland - Somerville Central Lib.
2. Somerville, MA
3. Carol Zallie
4. 1983
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking north
7. #141

Central library

Somerville MA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253