

AUG 04 1989

1032

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
Prospect Hill	131

Town Somerville MRA

Address 63 Columbus Avenue

Historic Name S. E. Brackett House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1880

Source map research

Style second empire

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric shingle covered clapboard

Outbuildings garage (NC)

Major Alterations (with dates) no date

Shingle treatment covers original siding

Condition excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreeage less than one acre

Setting: The Brackett House occupies a prominent site on Prospect Hill, in an urban residential neighborhood. Other houses in the area are late-19th century mansards Second Empire, gable end dwellings. It is a well maintained neighborhood.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date May 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 Assessor's Map

TM REFERENCE 19 - 327/500 - 4694/080

SGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

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

The S. E. Brackett House is a handsome, detailed, intact example of the Second Empire Style, displaying a wide variety of ornamentation, and is representative of the fine homes of some pretention being built for Somerville businessmen in the decades after the Civil War. The house is historically significant for its association with Somerville's subdivision in the late-19th century and with its commercial development. The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and 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.

One of the most pretentious Second Empire residences extant in the city, the S. E. Brackett House is exceptionally well preserved, retaining a variety of period details. This late Mansard house three bays wide and 2 1/2 stories in height has a central pavillion flanked by one-story polygonal bays resting on panelled bases. An entry porch forms the pavillion's base. The steep, straight-edge mansard roof is covered by slate in a number of patterns. The facade of the house is flush-boarded in an attempt to simulate ashlar masonry. Some in pairs and singly, have drip moldings. There is a variety of simple applied wooden ornament. A sawtooth ed cornice unifying the tower and main block is particularly noteworthy.

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

The Brackett House and its neighbor, the James H. Brooks House (#130) are situated on the most desirable lots of Ira Hill's 1870 Warren/Columbus Avenue subdivision. This house was built ca. 1880 and was owned by S. E. Brackett a local merchant. Most residents of Prospect Hill in the late-19th century were businessmen or professionals, while a number commuted to Boston by then readily available public transportation, others had businesses in nearby Union Square.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

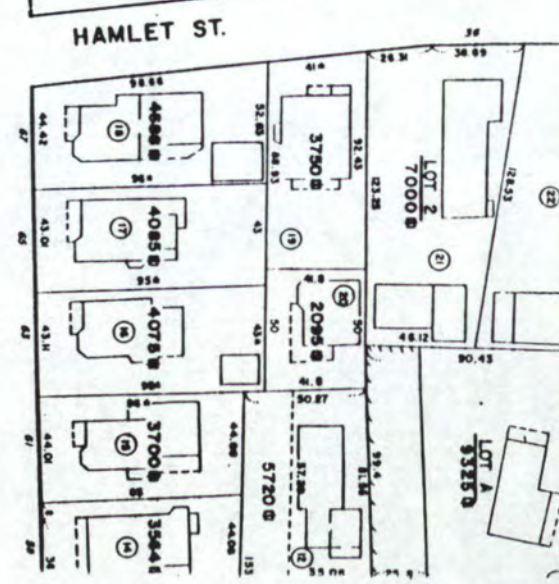
Hopkins, G. M. Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1874, 1884.



#131  
 1" = 100'

N

S. E. Brackett Ho.  
 Garage  
 63 Columbus 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 *Delores Byrum* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Bacon, Clifton, House Entered in the National Register  Keeper *Delores Byrum* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 500 13. Barnes, Walter S. and Melissa E., House Entered in the National Register  Keeper *Beth J. Savage* 3/8/90  
**Substantive Review** Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. Brackett, S.E., House Entered in the National Register  Keeper *Delores Byrum* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. Broadway Winter Hill Congregational Church Entered in the National Register  Keeper *Delores Byrum* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Brooks, James H., House Entered in the National Register  Keeper *Delores Byrum* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Central Library Entered in the National Register  Keeper *Delores Byrum* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Cliff, Z.E., House Entered in the National Register  Keeper *Delores Byrum* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. Cook, Thomas, House Entered in the National Register  Keeper *Delores Byrum* 9/18/89  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. Cooper--Davenport Tavern Wing Entered in the National Register  Keeper *Delores 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 Brackett, S. E., 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: 89001252

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  
 UTM's       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 \_\_\_\_\_



63 Columbus

1. 63 Columbus Ave
2. Somerville, MA
3. Carol Zellie
4. 1983
5. Somerville City Hall
6. Looking north
7. #131

Brackett, S. E., Hax  
Somerville MA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253