

AUG 04 1989

1282

FORM B - BUILDINGAREAFORM NO.Davis
Square
Area

162

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116Town Somerville MRAAddress 25 Russell StreetHistoric Name Philemon Russell 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 residenceOriginal farmhouse

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1850Source map researchStyle Greek RevivalArchitect noneExterior Wall Fabric clapboardOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) noneCondition goodMoved possibility Date unknown
realignmentAcreage on original site less than one acreSetting The house is located in an urban residential neighborhood close to the Somerville/Cambridge border.Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation PlannerOrganization Mass. Historical CommissionDate May 1936

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

Z E N

UTM REFERENCE 19 - 325/240 - 4695/340USGS QUADRANGLE Boston NorthSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Philemon Russell House retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. One of the best-preserved Greek Revival-style residences in Somerville, and formerly a farmhouse, the house 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.

This appears to be one of the earliest homes between North Street (now Massachusetts Avenue) and Davis Square.

The Russell House is significant as one of the only well-preserved examples of a three-bay, 2 1/2-story Greek Revival sidehall farmhouse in Somerville. The Russell House is sited with its enclosed gable end to the street. Notable features include the 6/6 divided moveable sash throughout, the entrance offset to the right and framed by transom and sidelights, and the full-width one-story Doric porch. Wide corner pilasters support two wide, overlapped boards representing the frieze and architrave of a Classical entablature. The structure has a slate roof, and a two-story rear ell.

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

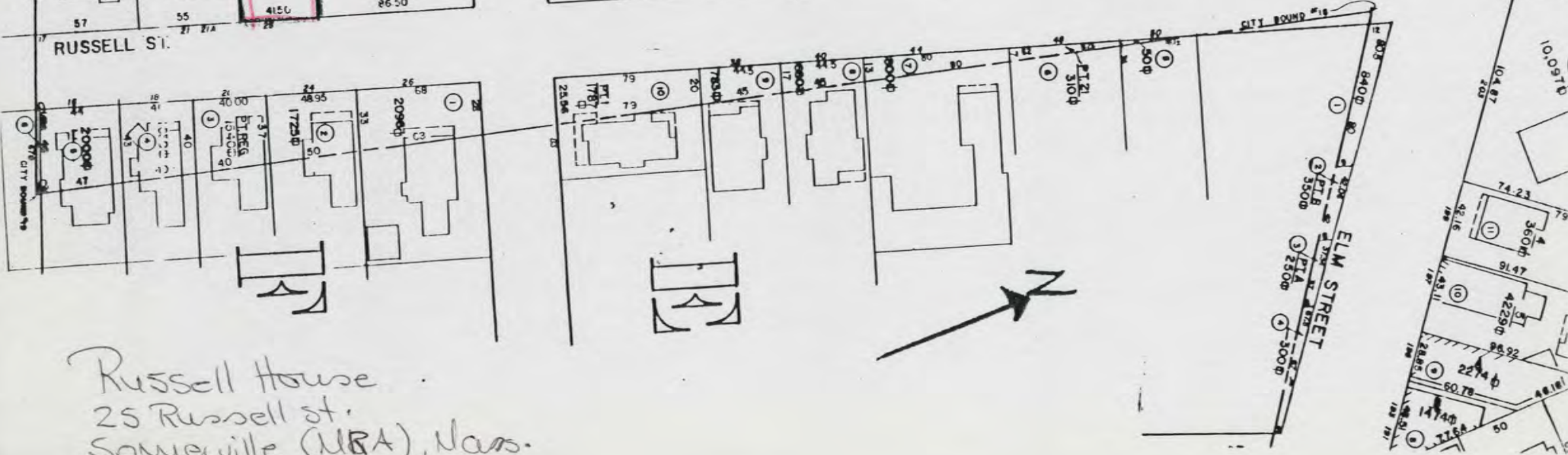
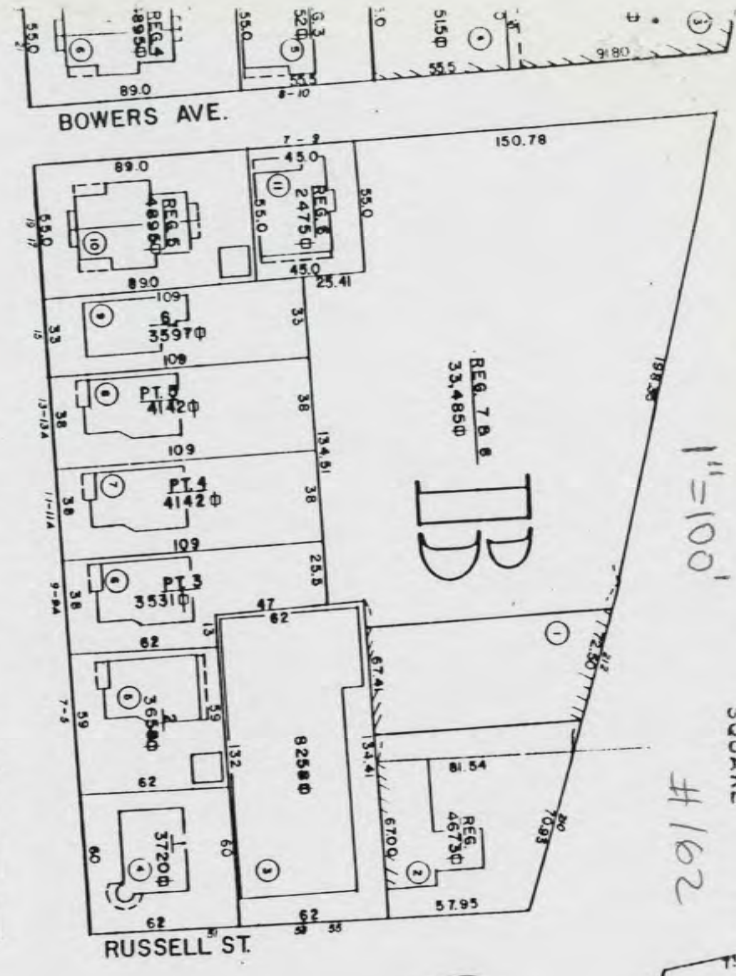
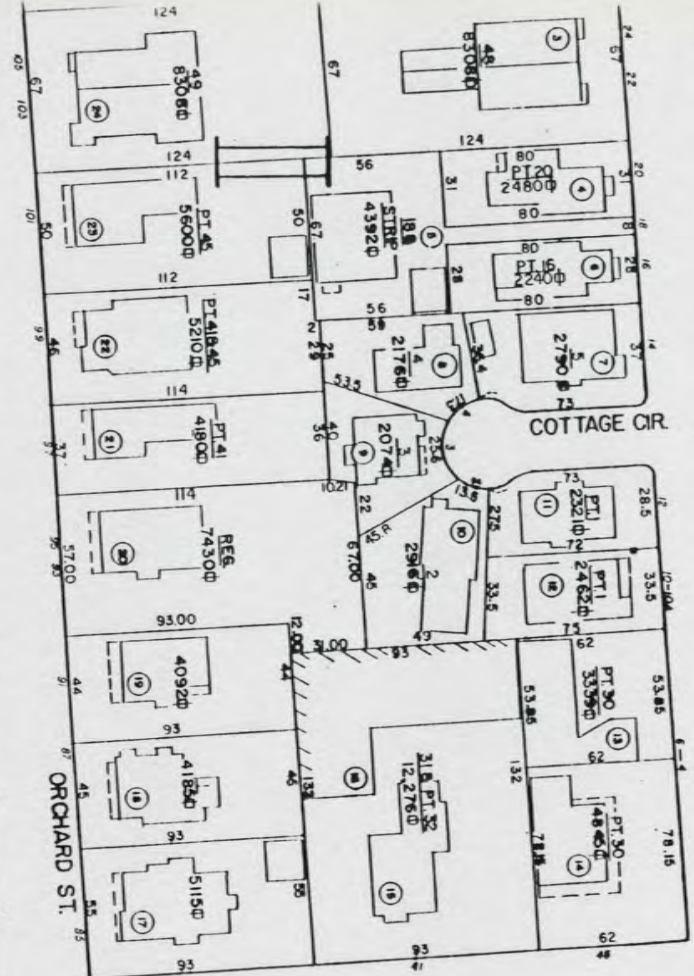
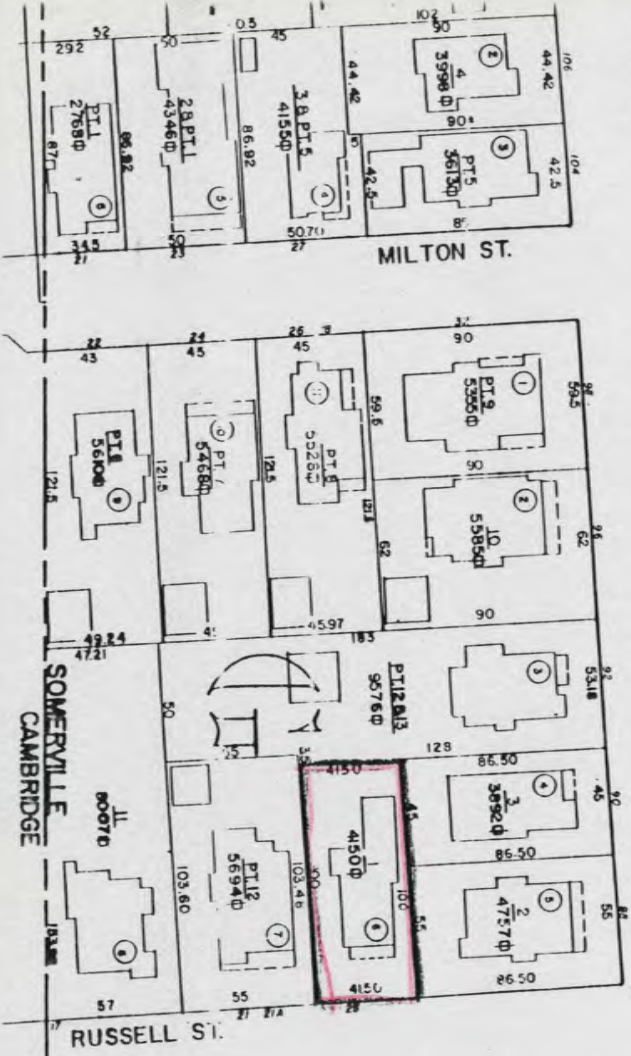
The Russells owned this land in 1838, in pre-Revolutionary times. This area was known as "Watson's Plain". Philemon Russell was a farmer and nurseryman who subdivided his 50 acres of land in 1845. The subdivision included Orchard, Russell, and Cottage Place, and straddled North Cambridge and Somerville.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Draper, Martin. Map of Somerville, 1852

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

Cambridge Historical Commission. Northwest Cambridge: Survey of Architectural History in Cambridge, 1977, p. 40.



Russell House
25 Russell St.
Somerville (MRA), Mass.

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 GroupName Somerville MPS
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
61. Old Cemetery Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
62. Otis--Wyman House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
63. Parker--Burnett House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
64. Prescott, Gustavus G., House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
65. Russell, Philemon, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
66. Russell, Susan, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
67. Schuebeler, Charles, House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
68. Snow, Lemuel, Jr., House Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
69. Somerville High School Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene Byers</u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
70. Somerville Journal Building Entered in the National Register	for Keeper <u>Helene 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 Russell, Philemon, 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: 89001282

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 _____



1. 25 Russell Street
2. Somerville, MA
3. C. Zellie
4. 1983
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking east
7. # 162

Russell, Phileas House
Somerville MA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253