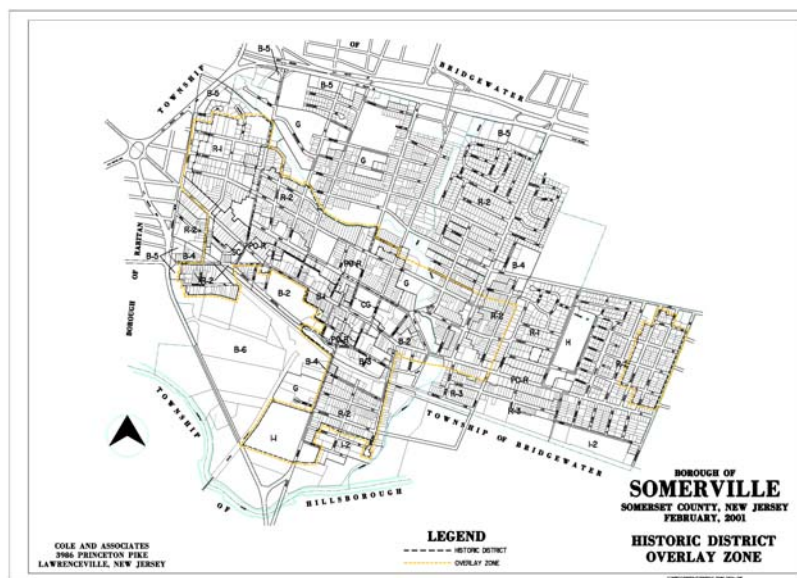




# **The Borough of Somerville Survey Historic Property Inventory**

**Prepared for:  
The Borough of Somerville Planning Board**



**Prepared by:  
Saltel Consultants, LLC  
88 East Main St., Suite 506  
Mendham, NJ 07945 (908)400-3862**

**May 2008**



---

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### **Borough of Somerville Planning Board Members**

Mayor Brian G. Gallagher

Larry Cleveland

Dennis Sullivan

Milton Peabody

Wayne Harmer

Bernie Navatto (Chairman)

Dr. R. Goldsmith

Philip Decker

Andrea Adair

Deirdre Rosinsk

Funding for this project was provided by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Office of Smart Growth



---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	1
Adams Street .....	5
Adamsville Street .....	10
Altamont Place .....	22
N. Autuen Place .....	36
N Bridge Street .....	60
S. Bridge Street .....	70
Center Street .....	91
E. Cliff Street .....	96
W. Cliff Street .....	103
Davenport Street .....	136
Division Street .....	144
N. Doughty Street .....	149
Franklin Street .....	159



---

Grant Avenue.....	166
Grove Street .....	167
Hamilton Street.....	186
E. High Street.....	197
W. High Street.....	205
Hope Street .....	235
Hunterdon Street.....	241
Madison Street .....	242
E. Main Street.....	248
W. Main Street.....	255
Maple Street .....	284
Mercer Street.....	288
N. Middaugh Street .....	298
S. Middaugh Street .....	305
Mountain Avenue.....	312



---

Prospect Drive.....	329
Prospect Street.....	330
Putnam Street.....	342
N. Richards Avenue.....	349
Ross Street.....	373
Second Street.....	379
South Street.....	395
Southside Avenue.....	396
W. Summit Street.....	413
Third Street.....	438
Veterans Memorial Drive.....	458
Washington Place.....	459
West End Avenue.....	469
Exhibit 1: West End Historic District Overlay Zone Map	
Exhibit 2: Central Historic District Overlay Zone Map	
Exhibit 3: Downtown Historic District Overlay Zone Map	
Exhibit 4: Southside Historic District Overlay Zone Map	
Exhibit 5: Washington Place Historic District Overlay Zone Map	
Exhibit 6: Victory Homes Historic District Overlay Zone Map	
Exhibit 7: Vanderveer Farmstead Historic District Overlay Zone Map	



---

## INTRODUCTION

The Borough of Somerville has a rich historic legacy dating back to pre-colonial times. Many significant events that helped to shape the future of our Nation took place in Somerville and important founders, including George Washington, visited and lived there. The Borough also includes historical buildings and structures that reflect a significant range of architectural styles and examples of work by nationally-recognized architects. Styles range from Georgian through Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Richardsonian Romanesque to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Neo-Classical.

The long term preservation of these significant historical and architectural resources is an important and essential objective for the Borough of Somerville. A key element and implementation tool for the Borough to help achieve this objective is a detailed survey of historical and architectural structures.

A survey was undertaken in Somerville in 1992 and an inventory was created of buildings and structures with potential architectural and historic merit. This survey was updated in 2008 as part of the process of preparing a Historic Preservation Plan Element for the Master Plan. According to New Jersey Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL), one of the roles of the Historic Preservation Plan Element of the Master Plan is “to indicate the location and significance of historic sites and historic districts”.

The *2008 Historic Property Inventory Survey of Somerville* identifies close to 1,000 buildings throughout the Borough. The properties are located in a number of areas identified by the Borough as proposed Historic District Overlay Zone areas. A detailed map of each proposed Historic District Overlay Zone area is attached to this report as Exhibits # 1-7. The seven (7) proposed Historic District Overlay Zone areas include:

- West End
- Central Area
- Downtown
- Southside
- Washington Place
- Vanderveer Farmstead
- Victory Homes



A photo record and inventory form was created for each property. Current conditions and use were recorded and any major changes in significance since the preparation of the 1992 survey were noted. The majority of the close to 1,000 properties that were inventoried were deemed to contribute to the significance of Somerville and are in good to excellent condition. Non contributing buildings and structures generally consist of properties that post-date the period of significance.

Of the close to 1,000 properties inventoried, thirty three (33) have been identified as key contributing sites. A key contributing property is one that is usually in excellent condition and/or excellent integrity, and has historical and/or architectural significance. Seven (7) of these sites are listed in the State and National Registers. The key contributing historic sites identified in this *Inventory* are presented below in alphabetical and numerical order

### ***Key Contributing Historic Sites***

228 Altamont Place, J. Harper Smith House\*  
246 Altamont Place  
254 Altamont Place, Samuel Miller House  
41 N. Bridge St., Craig House  
57 S. Bridge St., Richard Hoaglund House  
31 E. Cliff St.  
6 W. Cliff St., William H. Dakin House  
15 N. Doughty Ave, WE Hose Co Firehouse\*  
24 Franklin St.  
45 Grant Ave., Vanderveer Farmstead  
77 E. High St.  
40 W. High St.  
154-158 W. High St., St. John's Church\*  
198 W. High St., Noey-Hope-Case House  
E. Main & N. Bridge, First Reformed Church  
E. Main & Grove, Old County Courthouse\*  
48-50 W. Main Street

54-58 W. Main Street, Gaston Building  
W. Main, United Reformed Church  
166 N. Middaugh Street  
16 Mountain Ave.  
35 Mountain Ave., J. Vanderbeek House  
165 Mountain Ave., Alvah A. Clark House  
280 W. Summit St.  
1 Veterans Memorial Dr., Train Station  
38 Washington Pl., Wallace House\*  
65 Washington Pl., Old Dutch Parsonage\*  
77 Washington Pl., Mann House  
10 West End Ave., John Lindsley House  
20 West End Ave., William Steel House  
25 West End Ave, Somerville Borough Hall\*  
58 West End Ave.  
102 West End Ave.

\* Historic Sites listed on the State and National Registers



The U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for assessing worthiness were referred to in this evaluative process and in the completion of the *Inventory*. The criteria, any one of which may be conclusive in the determination to protect a site or district, are widely utilized to assess worthiness for historic site and district identification and designation. The U.S. Secretary of the Interior's criteria utilized in Somerville to assess the worthiness of potential historic sites include:

1. Whether the site or district has significant character, interest, or value, as part of the heritage or cultural characteristics of the municipality, state, or nation, or is associated with the life of a person significant in the past.
2. Whether the site or district is associated with an event of importance to the history of the municipality, state, or nation.
3. Whether the place reflects the environment in an era characterized by a distinctive architectural style.
4. Whether the building or structure embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style or engineering specimen.
5. Whether the work is one by a designer, architect, landscape architect, or engineer whose design has significantly influenced the historical, architectural, economic, special or cultural development of the municipality, state, or nation.
6. Whether the site or district contains elements of design, detail, materials, or craftsmanship which possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
7. Whether an area is part of or related to a park or other distinctive location which should be preserved according to an historic, cultural, or architectural motif.
8. Whether an area has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to pre-history or history.
9. Whether the site or district exemplifies the cultural, political, economic, social, or historical heritage of the community.





The *Historic Property Inventory Survey of Somerville* is an important planning tool that can be utilized by the Borough to help preserve and protect key historic and architectural resources in the community for future generations. It can serve a number of different important purposes and help further preservation objectives in a variety of ways.

A significant role for the *Inventory* is that it can be used by the municipality to help to identify potential historic sites and historic districts for listing on the National and State Registers of Historic Sites and Districts. The most common and effective technique used by municipalities to protect historically significant structures and historic areas is to nominate them to the State and/or National Historic Registers. Sites and districts on the Registers are afforded a certain level of protection. Projects involving federal money that may have an impact on National Register sites or districts must undergo a comprehensive evaluation process of that impact. The State requires a similar evaluation of State Registered sites and districts.

The *Inventory* can also be used as an educational resource for the community to learn more about local history, important events and people. A number of excellent histories, documents, and journals exist as reference materials on the Borough history. The *Inventory* can supplement and support these written journals and documents. It can also be used to foster civic pride and appreciation in the historic and architectural accomplishments of the past.

In addition, the *Inventory* can serve as an important resource and reference in the review and consideration of planning applications. It can provide important property information that can be referenced as a basis for informing citizens and owners of historic properties and, those who plan to develop in historic areas, about what is historically significant. The *Inventory* can also help to encourage owners of historic sites and properties within historic districts in their efforts to preserve the historic character of such properties.

In order for the *Inventory* to continue to serve these important purposes, it should be reviewed and updated on a regular basis. Any significant changes in condition and integrity of a property should be noted and documented. Potential new historic sites and districts, not currently identified, could also be reported.

The *Historic Property Inventory Survey of Somerville* is presented in the following pages. The *Inventory* is organized alphabetically by street name and the properties are presented in numerical order. The *Inventory* represents an important record of Somerville's past and can help to preserve historic and architectural resources for the future.



**Address:** 228 Altamont Place

**Property Name:**

**Date:** Pre-1882 **Source:** Fowler

**Style:** Late Victorian Eclectic

**Condition & Integrity:** Excellent

**Contributing Status:** Key Contributing

**Current Use:** Residential

**Context:** Large carriage house at rear of property, of brick with slate roof, contemporary with main house. Numerous mature trees.

**Inventory/Designation:** National & State Registers; County Survey 18-18-31

**Historical Significance:** Once occupied by Temple Beth El.

**Property Description:** Exceptionally intact 2 ½-story mansion. Combines features of many styles – Chateausque towers, round-arched windows, and Queen Anne turned porch posts.



**Address:** 231 Altamont Place

**Property Name:**

**Date:** 1888-1910 **Source:** 1992 Survey

**Style:** Queen Anne

**Condition & Integrity:** Excellent

**Contributing Status:** Contributing

**Current Use:** Residential

**Context:**

**Inventory/Designation:** County Survey 18-18-92

**Historical Significance:**

**Property Description:** 2 ½-story frame house with varied wall surfaces and roofline; half-timbered gable at front decorated with colored glass. Sunburst in gable at porch.

