

NRIND NRMRA 10/17/1985

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA <u>W</u>	FORM NO. <u>26/125-2</u>
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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108

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e
ed
on.

Town Brookline MRA

Address 97 Sewall Avenue

Historic Name William Murphy House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1886

Source tax list

Style Queen Anne

Architect information not available

Exterior wall fabric shingle

Outbuildings barn (shingled)

Major alterations (with dates) _____

No alteration permits on file

Moved no Date _____

Approx. acreage 14,861 sq.ft.

Setting One of three s.f. free stand
ing houses in now densely populated
area; slightly larger than #103&109
but lot sizes and setbacks are simi
lar.

See attached map.

Boston South Quadrangle
UTM Reference: 19/325590/4689670
Map #: 60

Recorded by Polk, Larkin, Benka

Organization Brookline Historical Com.

Date Summer 1978; update 5/85

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.)

This house and #s 103 and 109 have much larger lots than the houses at the other end of Sewall, probably reflecting the fact that the lots here were laid out and sold by the Stearns family - the other land had already been sold by them when the land was subdivided. Built about the same time as 109 and 76-C Sewall Avenue, this house can be compared to 109 Sewall, both employing elaborate window treatment in the gables, varied shingle patterns, and front porches. This house has a rounded bay on the porch; 109 has a polygonal bay outside the porch. All of the details (porch columns, gable decorations) are more gracefully handled and more delicate here than at 109. Of particular note is the finely scaled and balanced grouping of the three gables in the front. The landscaping and the spacious "piazza" give the house a more rural appearance than its neighbors.

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

The original owner, Waldo Stearns, previously lived at the corner of Webster and Harvard Streets. He was treasurer of the A.T. Stearns Lumber Co which had offices at 2 Post Office Square and 470 Albany Street in Boston and wharves at Neponset. In 1930 the house was purchased by Dr. William Parry Murphy who, along with Dr. George Minot, was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for their discovery of a cure for pernicious anemia.

Murphy was born in Wisconsin in 1892 and was graduated from the University of Oregon in 1914 and the Harvard Medical School in 1920. While serving as an intern at Rhode Island Hospital, he was one of the first physicians to carry out laboratory exams of the blood which included blood counts. In 1922 he began his residency at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston and carried out preliminary clinical and laboratory studies of patients referred to Dr. Minot for diseases of the blood.

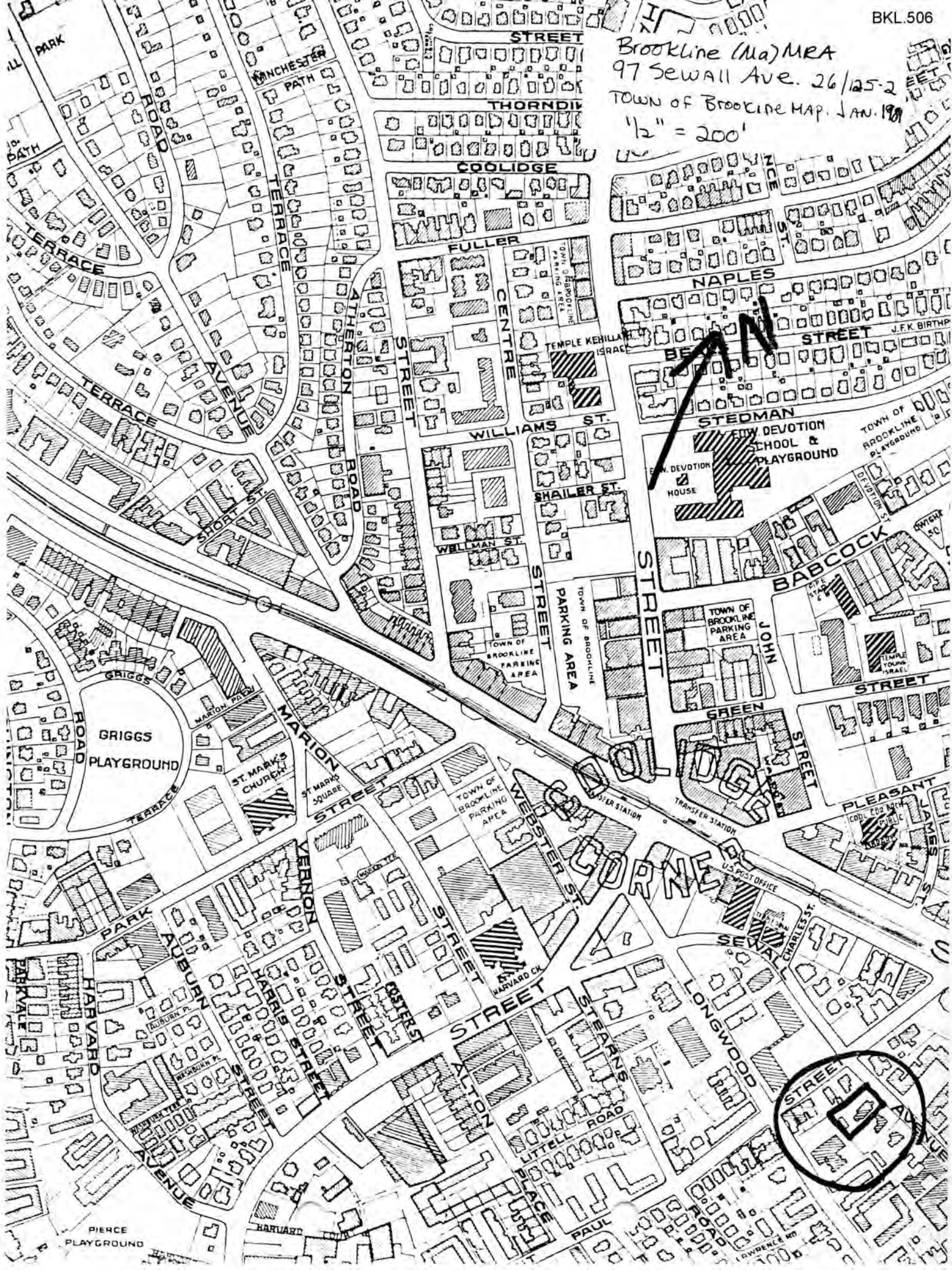
In making the award in 1934 the Nobel Prize Committee stated the the recipients in addition to developing a cure for this heretofore fatal form of anemia, had also discovered a unique fundamental principle involved in the normal capacity of the bone marrow to produce sufficient red blood corpuscles in man and other animals.

This property meets NR criteria B, being the home of Dr. William Murphy who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for discovering a cure for pernicious anemia in 1934, and criteria C as a well-preserved example of Queen Anne architecture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES (name of publication, author, date and publisher)

- Brookline Atlases, 1884, 1888
- Brookline Tax lists, 1886-1888
- Brookline Directory, 1885-1887
- Boston Directory, 1886
- Proceedings of the Brookline Historical Society, 1969-1974. "Pernicious Anemia Yields to New England Character" by William Castle, p. 126.

Brookline (Ma) MRA
97 Sewall Ave. 26/25-2
TOWN OF BROOKLINE MAP. JAN. 1981
1/2" = 200'



GORNER

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

PL - LAWRENCE SCHOOL

BKL-566

NRMRA/IND
ZTRP.

In Area no. <u>W</u>	Form no. <u>26</u> 125-2
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USGS-BOSIS,

1. Town Brookline

Address 97 Sewall Avenue

Name _____

Present use Residence

Present owner W. P. Murphy Jr.

Description:

Date 1886

Source Tax List

Style Queen Anne

Architect Information not available

Exterior wall fabric Shingles

Outbuildings (describe) Shingled barn

*pediment, fan designs flank-
ing gable window, shingles
used in imbricated, wave &
staggered butt patterns.

Other features 2 1/2 stories, gabled roof
irregular massing, off-center ent-
rance, porch across front w/columns
& railing, 3 panel brick chimneys,
shed & gabled dormers, decorated
bargeboards, sunburst in dormer *
Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

5. Lot size: 14861 sq. ft.

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 85'

Approximate distance of building from street

25'

6. Recorded by K. Polk, L. Larkin

Organization Brookline Historical Comm

Date Summer, 1978

(over)



7. Original owner (if known) Waldo H. Stearns

Original use Residence

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	_____	Social/ humanitarian	_____
Commerce	_____	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

This house and #s 103 & 109 have much larger lots than the houses at the other end of Sewall, probably reflecting the fact that the lots here were laid out and sold by the Stearns family - the other land had already been sold by them when the land was subdivided. (See other Sewall Ave. houses for community development.) Built about the same time as # 109 & # 76-78, this house can be compared to 109 Sewall for the elements of the Queen Anne style they have in common. Both employ elaborate window treatment in the gables, varied shingle patterns, and front porches. This house has a rounded bay on the porch; # 109 has a polygonal bay outside the porch. All of the details (porch columns, gable decorations) are more gracefully handled and more delicate here than at 109. The whole appearance of this house leaves the impression that the architect used a great deal of imagination and paid careful attention to detail; one of its most pleasing features is the finely scaled and balanced grouping of the three gables in the front. The landscaping and the spacious "piazza" give the house a more rural appearance than its neighbors.

The original owner, Waldo Stearns, previously lived at the corner of Webster & Harvard Sts. He was treasurer of the A. T. Stearns Lumber Co., which had offices at 2 Post Office Sq & 470 Albany St. in Boston, and wharves at Neponset.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

Brookline Atlases, 1884, 1888
 Brookline Tax Lists, 1886-88
 Brookline Directory, 1885-87
 Boston Directory, 1886