



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE STAFF REPORT

Site: 59 Albion Street
Case: HPC 2019.064
Applicant Name: Daryl O. & Katherine E. St Laurent
Date of Application: August 56, 2019
Recommendation: Significant
Hearing Date: September 17, 2019

I. Historical Association

Evolution of Site: Albion Street was constructed on land originally owned by Woodbury and first appears as one of a group of four mansard cottages as can be seen on the 1884 Hopkins Atlas. The barn was constructed between 1884 and 1895 when it is first documented.

Directory research lists most of the tenants as blue collar with jobs ranging from horse-shoer to teamster to provision dealer to masons. All of whom worked closely with horses. See attached directory, deed and building permit research.

Deed research could not be brought further back than 1930 when Merchants Co-operative Bank sold the property to Joseph and Mary Scanlan who do not appear in the City Directories at this address. They lived on Munroe Street in the 1920s and 1930s. He owned or worked for the Pennsylvania Oil Company according to the directories. Two 1929 Boston Globe articles mention John Sullivan of 59 Albion Street as a bootlegger. A 1949 Boston Globe article mentions Joseph Luongo as the man who took a 2 year-old victim of a hit and run to the hospital. See attached news articles.



Architectural Description: The 1 ½ story gable end barn has a hay loft door and hoist centrally located in the center cross gable. The carriage entry has been converted to garage doors. 2 windows are located below.

Summary: The barn was constructed between 1884 and 1895. The tenants of the house were people who would have had horse and carts for their businesses although no specific information was found. The 1905 and 1906 City Directories do not show any horses nor automobiles at this address during those years. It is not known how George E. Halpin, mason traveled for his trade or carried his supplies. However, the City directories do note that his place of business was in Boston.

Findings on Historical Association

*For a Determination of Significance, the subject building must be found either (a) **importantly associated with people, events or history** or (b) historically or architecturally significant (Ordinance 2003-05, Section 2.17.B). Findings for (b) are at the end of the next section.*

(a) In accordance with the historic information obtained from *Findings on Historical Association*, which utilizes historic maps/atlasses, City reports and directories, and building permit research, and through an examination of resources that document the history of the City, such as *Somerville Past and Present*, Staff find 59 Albion Street to be importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth.

The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due its construction type and use. Barns and stable were necessary adjuncts to the pre-automotive era.

II. Historical and Architectural Significance

The findings for historical and/or architectural significance of a historic property address the period, style, method of building construction and association with a reputed architect or builder of the subject property, either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures (Ordinance 2003-05, Section 2.17.B).

The period of significance for the barn at 59 Albion Street begins with its construction between 1884-1895 where it essential for the housing of horses and carts and other horse-related equipment and supplies.

Integrity

The National Park Service identifies historic integrity as the ability of a property to convey significance. A property should possess sufficient integrity to convey, represent or contain the values and qualities for which it is judged significant; therefore, the following is an identification and evaluation of these qualities and alterations as they affect the ability of the subject property to convey significance.

- a. Location: The building has not been moved. It is located as far as possible from the house along a rear lot line typical for a use that would produce bad odors and attract flies and vermin.
- b. Design: The building has an archetypal loft and cross gable plan.
- c. Materials: The building is constructed of wood.

- d. Alterations: The building has few alterations. The barn doors have been replaced with overhead garage doors.

Evaluation of Integrity: The building retains integrity of form, massing and style with few alterations.

Findings for Historical and Architectural Significance

For a Determination of Significance, the subject building must be found either (a) importantly associated with people, events or history or (b) historically or architecturally significant (Ordinance 2003-05, Section 2.17.B). Findings for (a) can be found at the end of the previous section.

(b) In accordance with the *Finding on Historical and Architectural Significance*, which addresses period, style, method of building construction, and association with a reputed architect or builder, either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures, as well as integrity, which assess the ability of the property to convey significance, Staff find 59 Albion Street barn historically or architecturally significant.

The subject barn is found historically and architecturally significant due to its method of building construction and its association with pre-automotive Somerville.

III. Recommendation

Recommendations are based upon an analysis by Historic Preservation Staff of the permit application and the required findings for the Demolition Review Ordinance, which requires archival and historical research, and an assessment of historical and architectural significance, conducted prior to the public meeting for a Determination of Significance. This report may be revised or updated with a new recommendation and/or findings based upon additional information provided to Staff or through further research.

For a Determination of Significance, the structure must be either (A) listed on the National Register or (B) at least 50 years old.

(A) The structure is NOT listed on or within an area listed on the National Register of Historic Places, nor is the structure the subject of a pending application for listing on the National Register.

OR

(B) The structure, pre 1895, is at least 50 years old.

AND

For a Determination of Significance under (B), the subject building must be found either (a) importantly associated with people, events or history or (b) historically or architecturally significant.

- (a) In accordance with the *Findings on Historical Association*, which utilizes historic maps/atlas, City reports and directories, and building permit research, and through an examination of resources that document the history of the City, **Staff recommend that the Historic Preservation Commission find 59 Albion Street Barn and Garage importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth.**

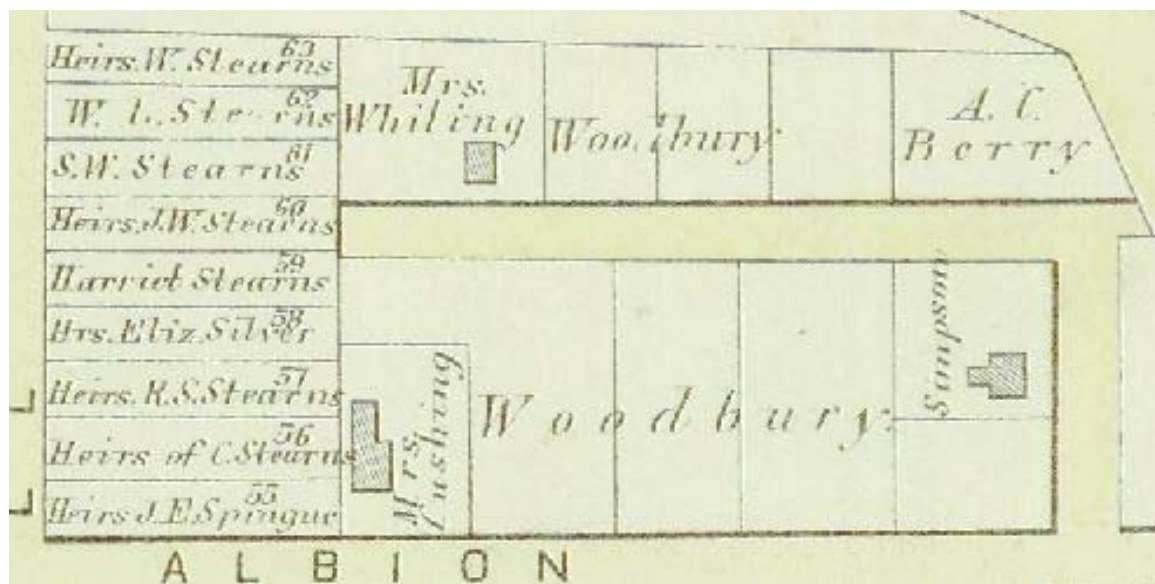
The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its use as a barn or carriage house and the pre- automotive as early automotive history.

OR

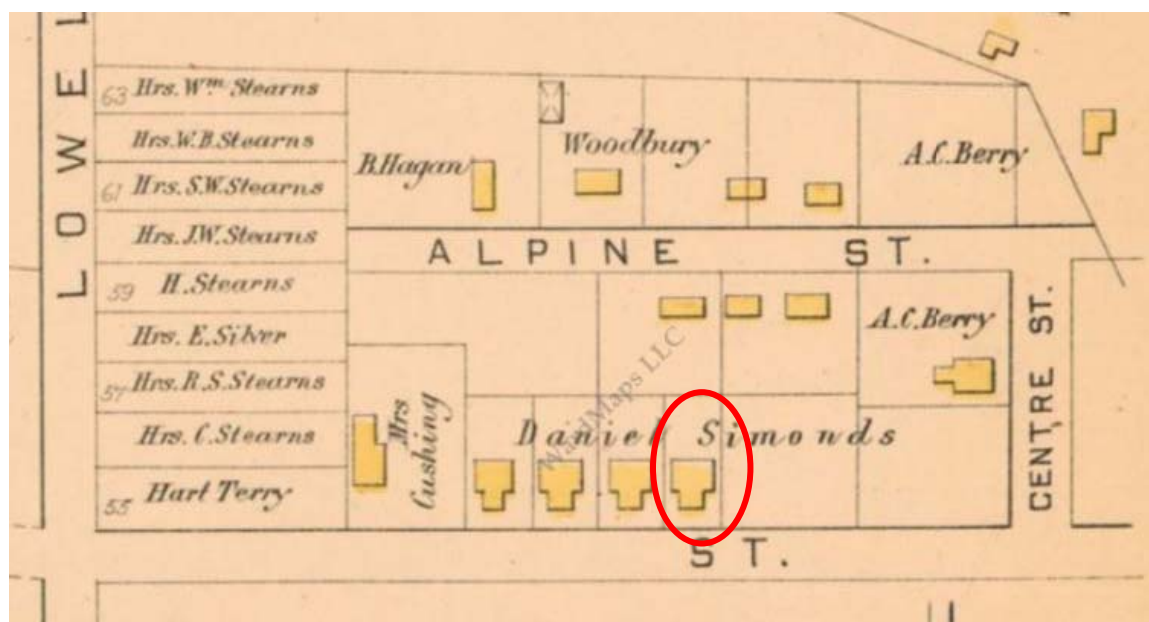
(b) In accordance with the *Findings on Historical and Architectural Significance*, which addresses period, style, method of building construction, and association with a reputed architect or builder, either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures, as well as integrity, the ability to convey significance, **Staff recommend that the Historic Preservation Commission find 59 Albion Street Barn and Garage historically and architecturally significant.**

The subject barn is found historically and architecturally significant due to its method of building construction and its association with pre-automotive Somerville. The addition is found significant as a rare wood framed garage.

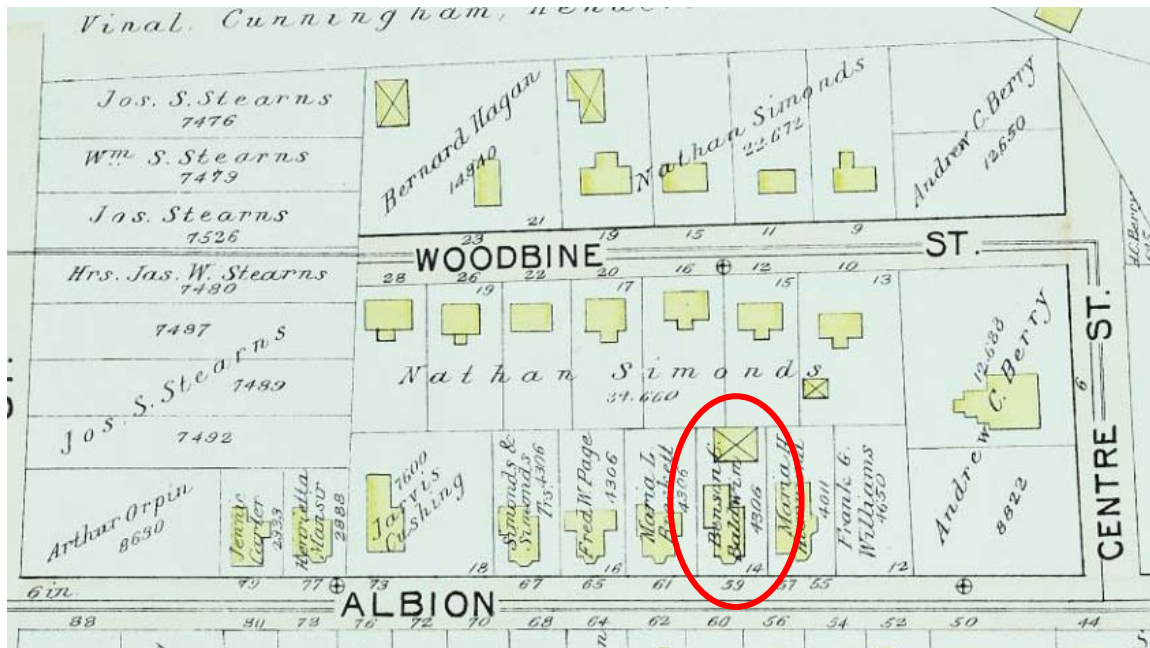




1874 Hopkins Plate 30-



1884 Hopkins Plate 12





2005 Photos of barn and house

Family Number	LOCATION	O/R	NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	Immigration Year	SOURCE	NOTES
	59 Albion Street	O	Woodbury					1851 Plan Book 4/Plan 78/(1/2) lot 14	
	59 Albion Street	O	Daniel Simonds					1874 Hopkins Atlas Plate 30	Land only
	59 Albion Street		Annie Sturdee		Widow of William H. Sturdee			1890 City Directory	4 Houses on Albion Street
	59 Albion Street		Calvin A. Hill		Physician, 110 Court, Boston			1890 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Warren M. Rich					1892 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Mary E. Rich		Widow of Michael Rich			1894 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Warren M. Rich					1894 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Amos Rines		Horseshoer			1895 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Benson B. Baldwin		Horseshoer			1895 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Richard A. Rines		Milkman			1895 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Josiah L. Gould		Teamster			1897 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Fred L. Broderick		Driver			1898 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Josiah L. Gould		Teamster			1898 City Directory	
224/308	59 Albion Street		Jonathan C. Lombard (brother)	71	Provisions Dealer	Massachusetts		1900 US Census	
224/308	59 Albion Street	R	Lewis Lombard (head)	62	Provisions Dealer	Massachusetts		1900 US Census	
224/308	59 Albion Street		Betsey A. Lombard (wife)	59		Massachusetts		1900 US Census	
224/308	59 Albion Street		Fannie M. Lombard (daughter)	33	Dressmaker	Massachusetts		1900 US Census	
224/308	59 Albion Street		Florence Pierce (boarder)	20	Telephone Operator	Massachusetts		1900 US Census	
	59 Albion Street		Jonathan C. Lombard		Provisions			1901 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Lewis Lombard		Provisions			1901 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Charles F. Archer		Train Despatcher, North Station, Boston			1902 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Jonathan C. Lombard		Provisions			1902 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Lewis Lombard		Provisions			1902 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Hermon L. Gray		Driver			1904 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Ira Gray		Guard, Boston Elevated Railway			1904 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Oliver A. Prescott		Carpenter			1906 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George H. Halpin		Mason, 20 Brattle, Boston			1908 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George H. Halpin		Mason, 35 Portland, Boston			1909 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George H. Halpin		Mason, 26 Brattle, Boston			1910 City Directory	
243/377	59 Albion Street	O	George H. Halpin (head)	45	Mason, Builder	Canada, English	1885	1910 US Census	
243/377	59 Albion Street		Charlotte Halpin (wife)	38		Massachusetts		1910 US Census	
243/377	59 Albion Street		Henry E. Halpin (son)	16		Massachusetts		1910 US Census	
243/377	59 Albion Street		George F. Halpin (son)	14		Massachusetts		1910 US Census	
243/377	59 Albion Street		Charlotte I. Halpin (daughter)	13		Massachusetts		1910 US Census	
243/377	59 Albion Street		Agnes G. Halpin (daughter)	4		Massachusetts		1910 US Census	
	59 Albion Street		Henry Halpin		Student			1913 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George E. Halpin		Mason, Boston			1914 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Henry A. Halpin		Student			1914 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George H. Halpin		Mason, 26 Brattle, Boston			1915 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Henry E. Halpin		Student			1915 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		G. Frederick Halpin					1916 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George E. Halpin		Mason, Boston			1916 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Henry E. Halpin					1916 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Francis Cody		Foreman			1917 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Frederick Halpin					1917 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George H. Halpin		Mason			1917 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Henry E. Halpin					1917 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Charlotte Halpin		Wife of George H. Halpin			1918 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		G. Frederick Halpin					1918 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George H. Halpin		Mason, Boston			1918 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Charlotte Halpin		Wife of George H. Halpin			1919 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Francis P. Cody		Foreman			1919 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		G. Frederick Halpin					1919 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George H. Halpin		Mason, Boston			1919 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Henry E. Halpin		U.S.N.			1919 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Charlotte Halpin		Wife of George H. Halpin			1920 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		George H. Halpin		Mason			1920 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Henry E. Halpin		Civil Engineer			1920 City Directory	
135/212	59 Albion Street	O	George H. Halpin (head)	52	Mason, Brick	Canada, English	1885/1894	1920 US Census	
135/212	59 Albion Street		Charlotte Halpin (wife)	49		Massachusetts		1920 US Census	
135/212	59 Albion Street		Henry E. Halpin (son)	26		Massachusetts		1920 US Census	
	59 Albion Street		John Murphy		Laborer			1925 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Josephine Cody		Wife of Francis P. Cody			1925 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Francis P. Cody		Foreman			1927 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		John Murphy		Laborer			1927 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Josephine Cody		Wife of Francis P. Cody			1927 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		John Murphy		Laborer			1929 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Josephine Cody		Wife of Francis P. Cody			1929 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street	O	Thomas E. & Mary A. Scanlan					1930 Deed 5510/450	from Merchants Co-operative Bank
	59 Albion Street		Joseph E. Silveira		Printer			1933 City Directory	
	59 Albion Street		Mary L. Watkins		Wife of W. Carlyle Watkins			1933 City Directory	

[illegible]

LIQUOR SQUAD'S PSYCHOLOGY RESULTS IN BRUISED CHIEF

Officers With Sport Clothes, in High-Priced Sedan, Still Policemen to Bootlegger—Get Man After Chase and Shot

The Somerville Police Department liquor squad for some years has been forthright in its forays against purveyors of illicit potables. The rule was "go out and get 'em and bring 'em in." Lately, however, there has been a change in the psychological approach of its commander, Lieut Charles J. Sharpy, and yesterday afternoon the new order of things had its first try-out.

The new idea is to have the three officers of the squad, Lieut Sharpy, Sergt Augustine F. Sharpy, and patrolman LeRoy Victory Pierce, dress as unlike police officers as possible, and tour the city in a high-priced, high-powered sedan.

Lieut Sharpy's notions were that bootleggers are a brazen crew and actually transported their wares in broad daylight. And that the "big front" would be an efficient disguise.

He was right and wrong.

Bootleggers do make daring expeditions in daylight. But a policeman in civilian clothes and in a high-priced, high-powered sedan is still a policeman—particularly to an efficient bootlegger.

Lieut Sharpy spotted a suspect about 5 yesterday afternoon on Oak st. But the suspect, in a touring car, spotted Sharpy, or LeRoy Victory Pierce at

the wheel of the big sedan, and started away from there.

So quickly did he speed up, police say, he narrowly missed running down a number of small children, playing tag in the street.

Patrolman Pierce swung the police car into pursuit and at the corner of Bolton and Oak sts came upon the suspect, in grief. His car had hit a tree. Lieut Sharpy leaped from the police car, got on the running board of the halted car. Its driver said profane things, started his car up again, and made into a private driveway between buildings. He jammed one side of the car against a building, knocking off the lieutenant.

But Sergt Sharpy was close behind and a quick shot disabled a rear tire of the bootlegger's car. The driver, John Sullivan, 27, of 59 Albion st, Somerville, was pulled out, arrested and taken to Headquarters. Lieut Sharpy was treated for bruises and scratches.

In the car, police state, was found five gallons of alcohol. As a result, Sullivan will face four charges in court today—illegal transportation, keeping and exposing liquor for sale, driving so as to endanger the lives of the public, and assault and battery on a police officer.

As usual, the liquor squad got its man. Whether the new psychology of the squad will be retained, could not be definitely learned last night.

ALLEGED BOOTLEGGER IS GIVEN 3 1/2 YEARS

Daily Boston Globe (1928-1960); May 7, 1929; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Boston Globe
pg. 19

WIRELESS

ALLEGED BOOTLEGGER IS GIVEN 3 1/2 YEARS

John Sullivan of 59 Albion st. Somerville, received sentences totaling 3 1/2 years in the House of Correction, and fines amounting to \$750, when he was found guilty on four charges by Judge M. E. Sturtevant in Somerville District Court, yesterday.

He was given two years for operating an automobile so as to endanger the lives and safety of the public, on Oak st. last Monday afternoon; one year for assault on Police Lieut Charles J. Sharry, and six months and a fine of \$500 for keeping and exposing liquor for sale. He was fined \$250 for illegal transportation of liquor.

Sullivan appealed and was held in \$5000 for the June term of Superior Court.

TAXICAB DRIVER FINED IN AUTO DEATH CASE

HAVERHILL, May 6—William J. Doyle, a taxicab driver, was fined \$200—the largest amount ever imposed for the offense—by Judge John J. Winn in the District Court today, for driving an automobile so as to endanger life and safety.

The case was continued from Saturday, when Doyle was found guilty, until today for sentence. The complaint resulted from investigation of an accident on Winter st a week ago last night, when Fransikas Fotiou, 50, was struck by an automobile while crossing the roadway, and died while being taken to a hospital.

Hit-Run Killer of Boy Described as Coatless Youth in Green Sedan

MEDFORD, Nov. 11—A coatless youth driving a green sedan with stolen license plates was sought by police tonight for the hit-and-run death of a 2-year-old Medford boy this afternoon.

The victim, little James Patrick Boyden, youngest of six sons of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton L. Boyden, was struck down as he toddled across Albion st. in front of his home at No. 61.

He died 15 minutes later at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, while police chased the death car through Somerville. The driver escaped in heavy traffic on Broadway.

Paul Boyden, 10, oldest of Jimmy's brothers, saw the accident from the front porch of a neighbor, Mrs. Alfred Brown of 56 Albion st.

He saw the car speeding down the street, and yelled for his little brother to get back on the sidewalk.

Driver Looks Back

"Jimmy didn't hear me, I guess," he said. "He kept walking across the street, right towards me. Then he was hit. The man driving the car seemed to turn right into him."

After the accident occurred the driver looked back several times, but didn't stop or even slow down, Paul told police.

Francis Curtin, 30 Boston av., who was working on his grandmother's home at 57 Albion st., also witnessed the accident.

He jumped into his own car and chased the hit-and-run vehicle into Somerville. He lost it on Broadway, near Magoun sq. A police cruiser that had taken up the chase at the same time also lost the fugitive car there.

Car Plates Stolen

Curtin had noted the car's registration, and turned it over to police. A check revealed the plates had



HIT-RUN VICTIM — James Patrick Boyden, 2, of Medford.

been stolen from another auto in Newton.

Curtin said he was positive he could identify the driver. He said he got a good look at him because the youth kept looking back over his shoulder while Curtin chased him.

He said the driver was alone, in a big green sedan, and was coatless.

Another witness, Joseph Luongo, 59 Albion st., took the Boyden boy to the hospital in his own car.

Besides his parents, the boy leaves five brothers, Paul, 10; Robert, 9; Joseph, 7; William, 6; Daniel, 4.