

Artisan's Asylum is a community craft studio of 40,000 sq. ft. that embraces manufacturing from quite small- to a large-scale. It provides skills education, tools, and workspace for a wide variety of artisans, ranging from avid hobbyists to serious entrepreneurs. (www.artisansasylum.com)

Brooklyn Boulders is an innovative multi-use facility encompassing 40,000 square feet that includes a rock climbing gym, fitness center, shared work space, and open play space for birthday parties and a range of workshops. Modeled on the 1st facility located in Brooklyn, NYC, it is the only Brooklyn Boulders in New England. Its unique combination of community space with innovative workouts is a novel reuse of a former warehouse located on Tyler Street (www.bkbs.brooklynboulders.com)

Aeronaut Brewery is a craft brewery opening up on 14 Tyler Street, next to *Brooklyn Boulders*, in June 2014. It is founded by several Yale and MIT graduate students, now Somerville residents, who are combining science, agriculture, and sustainability to create what they believe is truly unique beer. In addition to the brewery, Aeronaut is providing lab and incubator space for several other local food start-ups, such as Something Gud, Barisimo's, and Somerville Chocolate, making them a kind of "urban food hub.". (<http://www.aeronautbrewing.com>)

SOMERVILLE FIRSTS

Bertucci's. A brick oven pizza chain first founded in Davis Square in 1981 where it even featured a bocce court in the basement.

The Elephant Walk. A Cambodian/French restaurant started in Union Square in the mid-1980's, and since relocated and greatly expanded to well-known spots in Cambridge, Waltham, & Boston.

Marshmallow Fluff. A famous spread invented in 1917 by Joseph Archibald Query in his Somerville kitchen on Atherton St.

North Packing & Provision Company. In the 1890's 1 of 3 major meatpacking plants in Boynton Yards. When rebuilt in 1878 after a major fire, it was the most complete packinghouse in the U.S.

"Shape Up Somerville." A model program for the nation that promotes universal fitness and healthy eating. New local ventures like *Crossfit Somerville* and *Parkour Generations America* aim to meet these goals by sponsoring their dynamic workouts in classes, workshops, and other events in Somerville.

Solar Electric Generator. Somerville resident & inventor George Cove built, tested, and patented his solar panel & battery in 1906 to harness the sun's power. A precursor to solar energy today.

Steve's Ice Cream Parlor. The former chain featured home-made ice cream with mix-ins, a novel concept at the time. It began in 1973 on Elm St., Davis Square where Posto Restaurant now sits.

Stillson Wrench. The adjustable wrench, a still widely used tool, was invented by Somerville resident Daniel Stillson in 1869.

First Telephone Call. The house at 1 Arlington Street in East Somerville served as the endpoint for the first 'telephone call' generated by Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Watson.

Tower Root Beer. Started its recipe at 153 Cross St, a house at the base of Prospect Hill, then expanded and moved eastward to a church at 52 Tufts St, and now is in Arlington offering 3 flavors.

Zipcar. The Cambridge-based car-sharing service launched two of its earliest locations in Somerville, one in Davis Square along the Community Path, and one at 90 Elm Street near Porter Square.

Thank you for participating in this Bike Ride! We welcome your feedback and ideas for future tours and themes!

Somerville Leads the Way: Innovative People, Places and Products

Sunday, June 9, 2014



Sponsored by the Somerville Bicycle Committee (SBC) and the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission (SHPC).

More information, visit www.somervillebikes.org & www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation

Credits Brochure: Dick Bauer, Adam Brick & Brandon Wilson (SHPC); Route Map and Cue Sheet: Ron Newman & Tegin Teich (SBC), The Somerville Police Dept. for enthusiastically escorting us. A full map and turn-by-turn cue sheet are printed on a separate sheet.

Joseph A. Curtatone, Mayor

Welcome to our 13th Annual Historic Bike Ride!

This year the theme is "Innovation," and the many ways it has influenced the development of our community over nearly two centuries, and continues to shape our planning efforts today.

Going back to its earliest days, Somerville has been a center for "makers" -- artisans whose craftsmanship can be seen in the rich and varied architecture throughout our neighborhoods, and inventors whose visions and experiments have often transformed the way we live and work. The entrepreneurial spirit of the community is deeply rooted -- seen in the 1850's by the construction of the unique Round House in Spring Hill, in the 1870's by the installation of the first telephone lines in East Somerville and Winter Hill, and from the turn of the century forward in the design of machines and tools that streamlined repetitive movements of individuals, and increased the efficiency and profits of businesses.

Over just the past few decades many new entrepreneurs have been born, or relocated here to pursue their creative talents and startup businesses. Many have succeeded, some are still evolving, and more are bound to be spawned, as Somerville is becoming known as a place that both welcomes and nourishes innovators of all stripes and colors!

The innovative people, places, and products briefly noted in this brochure are a mere sample of the diversity found throughout the City. We simply want to whet your appetite, and encourage you to explore more widely, at your own pace and leisure. Today's landscape will keep changing, but the overall creative spirit that has influenced it, is likely to endure. ONWARD!



START: CENTRAL HILL

City Hall (1852)

City Hall first served as the community's high school until town offices were relocated from Union Square to the 2nd floor in 1867. Somerville incorporated as a City in 1872 and various additions were made in 1896 and 1902. A more substantial enlargement in 1923-24 led to its present configuration. Now housing a mix of municipal departments on 4 levels, this is where many great ideas begin to percolate and are supported wherever possible. (www.somervillema.gov)

Somerville High School (1872)

The building was first constructed in 1872 in what now stands as the East Wing (C Building). Many additions and renovations have altered it since then, but it remains the beloved place where future innovators, thinkers, and creators have been taught and nurtured for almost two centuries. The school's song and motto is aptly titled "Somerville Leads the Way."



English High School, Public Library and Town Hall, Somerville, Mass.

(www.somerville.k12.ma.us)

PROSPECT HILL

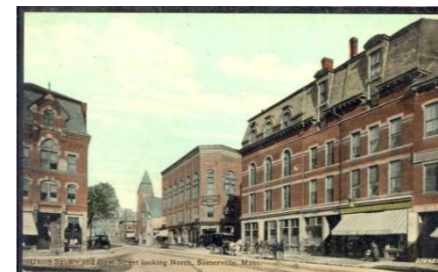
Prospect Hill Tower (1903)

The site played a major role in the Battle of Bunker Hill, largely due to its high elevation overlooking the surrounding countryside. This is where the first flag of the United Colonies was raised on January 1, 1776, under the auspices of General George Washington. This event signaled the Colonists message to the British, that the once angry British citizens were being transformed into independent Americans! Symbolizing a key point in the founding of our nation, this historic event is re-enacted every January 1st, with a Procession from City Hall and a Program at the base of the Tower. The castle-like structure was dedicated in 1903 to commemorate Somerville's significant role during the American Revolution.



PROSPECT HILL TOWER, SOMERVILLE, MASS. 796

UNION SQUARE



Fringe (2009)

Fringe is a business incubator and creative workspace located at 9 Olive Square, on the periphery of Union Square. Its 7,500 square feet of converted warehouse space

currently houses 15 small creative businesses and design studios,

that offer assistance with many modern needs, including web design, illustration, urban agriculture, green roofing, and bicycle delivery services. (www.fringeunion.com)

Design Annex (2009)

This co-working space of 1,400 square feet is located in the old Police Station in Union Square. It serves business owners in the design industry, including small businesses, solo practitioners, and freelancers, and offers them numerous shared office resources. It is operated by Union Square Main Streets. (www.dannex.org)



BOYNTON YARDS

561 Windsor Place/Taza Chocolate (2005)

The vision for the business originated in 2005 during the owners' travels in Mexico, while the actual factory creating Taza Chocolate did not open until 2006. Taza makes stone ground, organic chocolate that they creatively combine with other local partners to concoct new flavors and recipes. The company takes great pride in its fair trade practices and environmentally sustainable product. It is located in Boynton Yards, within a former meatpacking plant at 561 Windsor Place that hosts a variety of other creative industries as well, including Gentle Giant's Restoration and Conservation Services, Qrst's Screen Printing and Embroidery, and the Albertine Press. (www.tazachocolate.com)

Somerville Brewing Company (~2011)

This company, better known as Slumbrew, was founded in Somerville, with brewing operations taking place in Ipswich. It produces an artisanal craft beer which will soon be available through a new small brewery and tap room opening at 15 Ward St. in Boynton Yards. (<http://www.slumbrew.com>)

35 Medford Street (1880)

This former warehouse which housed the North Packing Plant was bought and renovated in 2012, and now hosts shared office space with a collection of diverse, innovative businesses, such as Formlabs (3D printing), high-tech hardware (Eyenetra), and biotech (Bioengineering, Inc.).



BRICKBOTTOM

Brickbottom Artists Association (1987)

The Brickbottom artists community resides at 1 Fitchburg Street in the former A & P Warehouse and Distribution Center built in the 1920's. This is a traditionally industrial section of the City that is gradually evolving into a mixed-use area. The association is unique due to its longevity in offering a combination of live-work space for local artists, the magnitude of its artist-oriented population, and the significant gallery space it offers for display of the work by resident artists. (www.brickbottomartists.com)



Green Line Extension, New Washington Street Station (2017)

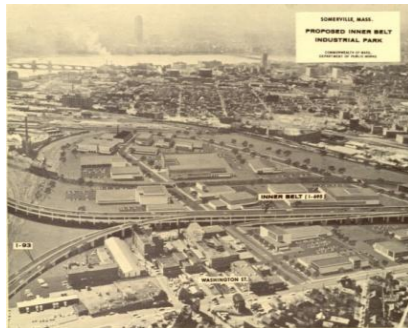
The new Green Line Extension (GLX) is the first transit rail expansion since the Red Line expanded to Alewife in 1985. The first stations to open will be the Washington Street and Union Square stops, which will be followed by stops at Gilman Square, Lowell St., Ball Square and Tufts/College Ave. The extension will significantly increase transit access for a large segment of the population, as well as serve as a major catalyst for new economic development in many parts of the City. It will also restore Somerville to its strong historical roots of being well-served by transit. (www.greenlineextension.eot.state.ma.us)



INNER BELT

Triumvirate Environmental, Inc. (TEI) (1988)

This environmental consulting company, located in the Inner Belt area, is attuned to modern day needs and aims to help businesses reduce environmental waste, implement safer and more compliant waste management practices, and develop green and sustainable solutions. It takes great pride in its Social Responsibility Policy that serves as a fundamental element of its business model. (www.triumvirate.com)



EAST SOMERVILLE

Mudflat Studios (1971/2011)

While the studios originated in 1971, they only recently (2011) finished renovating and relocating to a former movie theater building on Broadway. The new space enables them to provide even more innovative clay-based offerings, including classes, workshops, and other outreach events. They also provide a small number of live/work studio apartments for artists to pursue their passion. (www.mudflat.com)



ASSEMBLY SQUARE



Legoland Discovery Center (2014)

This 44,000 square foot space is a prominent tenant of the new Assembly Row development. It is the first location of its kind in New England and only one of six in the U.S. Its many fun attractions include (2) interior LEGO rides, play zones, replicas of historical sites in Boston, (3) 4D cinema experiences, and a Model Builder Academy. (www.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/boston)



New Orange Line Stop, Assembly Square Station (est. Fall 2014)

The new Orange Line station will be the first new rail transit station in the MBTA system since 1987. As a central component of Assembly Square's redevelopment, the stop is estimated to attract 5,000 daily boardings by 2030. It will further connect Somerville to Boston, enhance public access to the site, and notably decrease automobile usage and air pollution. ([www.mbta.com/about the mbta/t projects](http://www.mbta.com/about_the_mbta/t_projects))



WINTER HILL

Fisher College (Original Site, 1903)

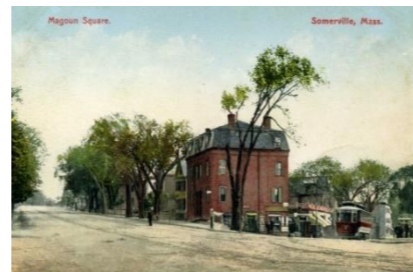
Two brothers and educational entrepreneurs, Edmund and Myron Fisher, founded the Winter Hill Business College for Somerville immigrants seeking advancement beyond unskilled labor. First located in Gilman Square it moved to its present site in Boston's Back Bay in 1939. (www.fisher.edu/about/history)



MAGOUN SQUARE

Rogers Foam Corporation/ (1947) /Vernon St. Studios (1975)

A family-owned business founded in 1947, the company now has 10 locations world-wide with headquarters based in Somerville. It continues to fabricate flexible foam products for custom applications in a variety of industries, in response to market changes and material innovations. Also within this 19th-century brick industrial building is shared art space known as Vernon Street Studios. They were the first group of artists in Somerville to open their studios to the public in 1975. (www.rogersfoam.com www.vernonstreet.com)



Maxwell's Green (2012)

This is a relatively new residential complex with 184 mostly luxury units of studios, 2- and 3-bedroom apartments, and 3-bedroom townhouses. Capitalizing on the planned new Green Line stop at Lowell St. and the extension of the Community Path from Cedar St., the development aims for eco-style living, with amenities like bike storage, electric car charging stations, a fitness and yoga studio, and a dog park. (www.windsoratmaxwellsgreen.com)

POWDER HOUSE SQUARE

Powder House (1704)

Originally built as a windmill for milling grain from area farmers, it later (1847) became a repository for the local militia's gun powder. When British troops seized the barrels stored there (Raid of Sept. 1, 1774) it was a catalyst for the start of the American Revolution. Relatives of the Tufts family which founded Tufts College donated the land around the Powder House to the City in 1892 to become Nathan Tufts Park. Both the Park and the Powder House are listed in the National Register of Historic Places (1975), and the City has won State awards for its significant restoration work (2001, 2003-05). (www.somervillema.gov/historicpreservation)



TEELE SQUARE

Tufts Administration Building/Community Service Center (1984)

Originally the City's Western Junior High School, Tufts University purchased the surplus building, significantly renovated, and then repurposed it to accommodate numerous administrative offices (The TAB). By prior agreement 1/3 of the building was then leased back to the City to serve as a community service center (the CSC) where multiple local social service agencies and an adult education program (SCALE) are housed. It is an innovative public/private venture that has helped strengthen town-gown relations.



DAVIS SQUARE

Powderhouse Productions (1994)

Once a Powderhouse Square start-up, Powderhouse Productions has grown into much larger office quarters at 212 Elm Street in Davis Square. Reputed to be the largest independent producer of television in New England, they create documentary styled-television and movies, offer a range of other production assistance services, and rent production equipment, office space and cubicles. (www.powderhouse.net)

48/50 Grove Street Start-ups

This building, once housing the Arthur Harding Oil Can Manufacturing Co., currently hosts a collection of start-ups, including *The Echo Nest*- a music intelligence co., *Launch Plan*- a business plan creation tool for educators, *PillPack*- a personalized



pharmaceutical deliverer, and *Evergage*- an online customer engagement measure.

Somerville Community Path (1990's --)

The Somerville Community Path is a mixed-use Rails to Trails path currently going from Davis Square to Cedar Street, but soon expected to extend to Lowell Street. It is heavily travelled daily by commuters, cyclists, pedestrians, and dog walkers who relish this safe, efficient, and community-oriented corridor linking transit options, neighborhoods, recreation & outdoor enjoyment. (www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/community-path)

SPRING HILL

Center for Arts at the Armory (2005)

Located within the historic Somerville Armory (1903), this serves as a community arts center for the residents of Greater Somerville. The non-profit Center offers studio space, performance area, a gallery, a café, and spacious rental space for public and private events. (www.artsatthearmory.org)



The Round House (1856)

Designed and built by Enoch Robinson, an accomplished inventor and entrepreneur, this historic house has a circular plan with the 3rd story slightly smaller in diameter than the 1st 2 floors. A distinct icon throughout New England, this single-family house is privately owned and has been undergoing extensive restoration.

END: AMES BUSINESS PARK (a.k.a. "INNOVATION ROW")



The Ames Safety Envelope Company, which moved to Somerville in the 1930's and sold in 2010, was housed in a complex of industrial buildings, both older brick and newer construction ones, near the rail lines off Somerville Ave. In recent years, an enlightened parent company has renovated and leased space in many of them to multiple creative industries and start-ups, creating a magnet for more to arrive as new space is renovated. Current tenants in the Ames Park include Greentown Labs, Artisan's Asylum, Brooklyn Boulders, and Aeronaut. Each entity has a strong sense of community, as well as a spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship that has redefined the area and the overall City in the last few years.

Greentown Labs (2014) offers expansive workspace for entrepreneurs focusing on environmental and energy technologies. The 33,000 sq. ft. building includes prototyping space, office units, a machine shop, and a mix of resources to help their tenant companies thrive. (www.greentownlabs.org)