

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.329
Historic Name:	Darling, Samuel House
Common Name:	
Address:	158 Central St
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Winter Hill
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	1879
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Victorian Eclectic
Use(s):	Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	SMV.BA: Somerville Single Building Local Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (10/31/1989)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Random Laid Rubble; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 1:51: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

LHD 10/31/89 (10)
PI - WINTER
USGS, BOSTON
Set B

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

Winter Hill

329



SOMERVILLE

158 Central Street

Owner Name Samuel Darling

Present residential

Original residential

OPTION

1879

maps / directories

Second Empire w/ Queen Anne & Stick Style details

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition good

Moved Date

Acreage 7227 sq. ft.

Setting West side of Central near Medford St., well established residential neighborhood of large late 19th century houses.

Recorded by Carole Zellie - 1980
Gretchen Schuler - 1988

Organization Somerville Historic Preservation Commission

Date May, 1988

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



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.**

Built by 1879 the two and one-half story Second Empire house retains architectural detail from Stick and Queen Anne styles. The slant mansard roof with patterned shingles has a raking cornice with unadorned brackets. There are shed roof dormers of two sash each. Other details include the one-story corner polygonal tower with clapboard siding and Stick work and a side shed roof bay which retains similar Stick work. The shed-roof porch is supported by turned posts and a simple balustrade. The house is well conserved example of the substantial houses built in this area in the late 1800s.

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

Winter Hill refers to a large area of development north of Highland, east of Lowell, west of Marshall and bordered on the north by Broadway. The actual geographic drumlin reaches its summit near the top of Adams and Central Streets, which were laid out and subdivided in 1847 but not developed for the most part until the 1880s and 1890s. Workers' housing was located in the Ten Hills area and on tracts of land west of Lowell and Adams Streets. In contrast, this area was developed with large, detailed, businessmen's homes.

During the 1870s this land was owned by Cutler Downer who lived at #170 Central Street and worked as a real estate broker in Boston. His tract of land was large extending from Medford Street and running north on Central and Adams Streets. The 1884 owner, Samuel Darling lived here be 1879. He was the Somerville city solicitor and also maintained a law office in Boston at the Old State House.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1. Atlas of Middlesex County, Somerville: 1874 ("Cutler Downer"land only), 1884 ("Samuel Darling") 1895 .
2. City Directories, 1870s-1890s.
3. Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County: Book Page .



Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.330
Historic Name:	Downer, Cutler House
Common Name:	
Address:	170 Central St
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Winter Hill
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	1868
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Second Empire
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Other Communication; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture; Communications; Invention
Area(s):	SMV.BA: Somerville Single Building Local Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (10/31/1989)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard Foundation: Brick



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

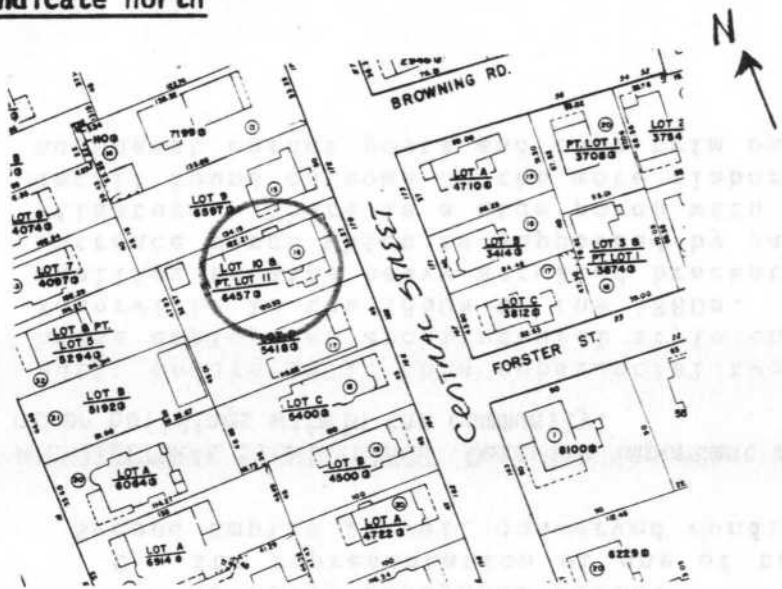
*LINE-10/31/89 (10)
PI. WINTER
MAPS. BOSTON
SECT B*

AREA Winter Hill FORM NO. 330



SOMERVILLE
170 Central Street
Cutler Downer
residential
residential
ca. 1868
maps / visual / directories
Second Empire

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



Architect
Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard
Outbuildings
Major Alterations (with dates)
Condition good
Moved Date
Acreage 6457 sq. ft.
Setting West side of Central, near Forster and Browning Sts. Well established residential neighborhood of large late 19th century dwellings in good repair
Recorded by Carole Zellie - 1980
Gretchen Schuler - 1988
Organization Somerville Historic Preservation Commission
Date May, 1988

UTM REFERENCE
USGS QUADRANGLE
SCALE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The property is significant for :

- A - its association with the early development of Winter Hill.
- B - its association with Alexander Graham Bell and the experimentation of early telephone wires.
- C - its representation of one of the earliest Winter Hill houses, Second Empire in well conserved condition.

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

Built before 1871, this substantial two and one-half story Second Empire house employs an architectural style that was exceedingly popular in Somerville in the 1860s to the 1880s. The three-bay, side-hall entrance dwelling retains heavy scrolled brackets, a pierced decorated frieze of the entrance porch which is supported by paired squared columns and single pilasters. There is a side porch with a three-story projecting bay. Other detail found on some of the more elaborate houses include quoins on the northeast corner posts and rope trim on other unadorned corner posts.

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

Winter Hill refers to a large area of development north of Highland, east of Lowell, west of Marshall and bordered on the north by Broadway. The actual geographic drumlin reaches its summit near the top of Adams and Central Streets, which were laid out and subdivided in 1847 but not developed for the most part until the 1880s and 1890s. Workers' housing was located in the Ten Hills area and on tracts of land west of Lowell and Adams Streets. In contrast, this area was developed with large, detailed, businessmen's homes.

During the 1870s and 1880s this land was owned by Cutler Downer who lived on Central Street and worked as a real estate broker in Boston. His tract of land was large extending from Medford Street and running north on Central and Adams Streets. The first directories of 1871-1872 indicate that Downer lived here. According to local history writer William Preble Jones, Downer's son Ross Downer was a close friend of Professor Alexander Graham Bell, who supposedly used the Downer's house as one of his first telephone wire location. In Somerville Fifty Years Ago, Jones writes, "years afterward, Ross told me that the first paid delivery message ever sent out by telephone was sent out by Professor Bell to the Downer home, whence it was carried by a boy to the professor's sweetheart in Cambridge."

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1. Atlas of Middlesex County, Somerville: 1874 ("Cutler Downer"), 1884 (same), 1895 ("Frank W. Downer").
2. City Directories, 1870s-1890s.
3. Jones, William Preble, Somerville Fifty Years Ago, 1933.
4. Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County: Book _____ Page _____ .

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.132
Historic Name:	Adams, Charles - Locke, Woodbury House
Common Name:	
Address:	178 Central St
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Winter Hill
Local No:	1034, 121
Year Constructed:	c 1840
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Agricultural; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Agriculture; Architecture
Area(s):	SMV.AY: Somerville Multiple Resource Area
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/11/1985); Nat'l Register MRA (09/18/1989); Nat'l Register Individual Property (09/18/1989)
Building Materials(s):	Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard



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Massachusetts Historical Commission
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LHD - 3/11/85 (20)

AREA

FORM NO.

AY Winter Hill 121 | 132

PI - Winter
USGS - BOSTON
SECTA

NRMRA/IND

9/18/89

IC, INC

MHC#
4034

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
30 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116



Town Somerville MRA

Address 178 Central Street

Historic Name Charles Admas - Woodbury

Locke House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1840

Source map research

Style Greek Revival

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings garage (ca. 1923)

Major Alterations (with dates) Addition of porch roof, ca. 1910; shed dormer ca. 1900; removal of ell and barn, ca. 1870 and 1850, respectively

Condition Excellent

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage Less than one acre.

Setting The Adams - Locke House is located un an urban residential neighborhood on Winter Hill in north central Somerville.

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Massachusetts Historical Comm.

Date May 1986

Sketch
in re
geogr
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inter
Indic

See Attached Assessor's Map

UTM REFERENCE Z 19 - 327/140 - 4695/450

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Adams-Locke House retains integrity of location, design, materials, and workmanship. Historically, the house was originally a farm, significant for its association with Somerville's early 19th century past and as the home of Charles Adams, a state legislator and one of the first merchants at the Boston's Quincy Market. Architecturally, the house is significant as a well-preserved and finely detailed example of the Greek Revival style. The Adams-Locke House thus fulfills Criteria A, B and 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.

The Adams-Locke House is significant as one of the first non-agricultural houses built on Winter Hill. The structure, built ca. 1840, is a well-preserved example of a pretentious Greek Revival-style side-hall house. The three-bay facade is sited with its gable end to the street. Other notable features include the broad entablature at the cornice, wide corner boards, and full-width Doric porch (to which a ca. 1910 roof railing has been added). The entrance is offset to the right and is flanked by full-length sidelights. The interior retains most of its original doors, door and window enframements, baseboard moldings, and decorative moldings.

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

Originally a farmhouse, the house stands on land the boundaries of which once extended south to Medford Street and north to Broadway. Adams gave the city the land at the northern end of his property for the first schoolhouse on Winter Hill. The school stood on the site of the present-day Winter Hill Congregational Church (#118). The house was built by Charles Adams, a well-known figure on Winter Hill during his day. Adams was a farmer, animal husbandman, and state legislator. He is known to be one of the original merchants at Boston's Quincy Market.

A subsequent resident of the house was Woodbury Locke, a "cutter" employed in the leather/shoe business in Boston.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

raper, Martin, Map of Somerville, 1852
Hopkins, G. M. Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1874

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LOTS 6, 7, 8 & 9
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SMV.132



ADAMS STREET

CENTRAL ST.

CENTRAL STREET

BROWNING RD.

FORSTER ST.

BROWN

B



FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

48/B/22 / 1/2/3/and 4			
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Town/City: Somerville

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Winter Hill

Photograph



Address: 181 Central Street

Historic Name: William & Alice Woodberry House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: c.1895

Source: 1895 Bromley & 1900 Stadley

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown to-date

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: wood shakes and clapboard

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage:

Setting: urban residential side street; one of three buildings forming a strong, contiguous residential Colonial Revival street wall

Locus Map

See attached map.

Recorded by: City of Somerville, OSPCD

Organization: Planning Division

Date (*September 2021*):

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN

ADDRESS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

--	--

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

181 Central Street is one of three large, classic, Colonial Revival houses built in succession on this portion of Central Street (with 183 Central and 187 Central being the others). While these three houses form a strong Colonial Revival street wall, they are part of a larger architectural narrative that begins with a classical Greek Revival residence (178 Central St.) and ends with the Byzantine Revival synagogue at 201 Central Street. 187 Central Street is an integral part of this architectural chronicle. Architectural details appear below:

This c.1895, 2 ½-story Colonial Revival building is three bays wide and presents a hip roof with slate shingling and a deep eave on the second story. The second floor façade overhangs the first floor façade in a revival design that borrows from a late medieval English/early First Period colonial American building style. There are thick, squared drops at either end of the overhang, a motif also borrowed from late-medieval English / early First Period colonial American building style.

Rounded bays with three windows each are found on both sides of the front entry portico. The windows present 6-over-one double-hung windows. Classical swag motifs are present above the windows in each bay. This swag motif is carried across the cornice of the front portico.

The second story presents a rounded, three window oriel at the center of the front façade. The upper portion of each of the three double-hung windows in this oriel present decorative caning.

Right and left substantial, three-pillar column clusters with Doric capitals support the portico roof. The three-pillar column clusters rest on substantial plinths. Open metal railings with scrollwork are found on either side of the front portico decking and match the paired metal railings flanking the front entry steps. The center front entry presents a solid paneled door flanked by three-quarter, 10-light, bottom paneled side lights. Single, stylized corbels support the rear portion of the entry portico. A secondary entrance with steps, rails, and a small stoop is extant on the right elevation of the building.

Two wide single dormers with exaggerated and flared gable roofs are present on the front elevation. The left and right elevations each present one single dormer with the same exaggerated and flared gable roof. All dormers have paired, double-hung, one-over-one windows. A single dormer with an exaggerated and flared gable roof is also present on the rear elevation. Two brick chimney stacks – one on the front right elevation and the other to the rear left. The foundation is stone. A metal fire escape leads from the second story to grade on the right elevation of the building.

An early 20th-century concrete block garage is extant along the right rear property line. The garage has two bays, double doors, and a hipped roof with asphalt shingles.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN

ADDRESS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Historic map research indicates that this portion of Central Street in Winter Hill was late to develop. According to deed research, by at least 1892, Jonathan Brown owned most of the land on this block of Central Street as well as several parcels of land on what became Browning Road. In 1892 this land, including today's 181 Central Street, was laid out by civil engineer, George A. Kimball for Brown. By 1895, 181 Central Street had been built, the first of the three Colonial Revival houses (183 and 187 being the others) to be constructed.

The property is owned by the Woodberrys from at least 1895 until at least 1930. The 1900 census shows William and Alice Woodberry, 43 and 36 respectively, living with a full household of relatives, servants and boarders. In addition to their 4 year-old daughter, Margaret, 181 Central Street also houses Charlotte Symonds, an 81 year-old aunt of one of the Woodberrys, two boarders, Mary Northrup and Mary Stiles, both teachers, and a live-in servant, Mary Daley. William Woodberry is a treasurer at a plumbing company, an occupation in which he continues through at least the 1920 census.

City directories in the 1920s show Margaret working in a variety of careers including a chemist and as an appraiser. Later census data (1940) after she had moved out of Somerville with her husband and mother, showed that she had a college education. But in 1930, Margaret is married to Austin T. Bunker and they both reside at 181 Central with their now-widowed mother. Alice Woodberry is now listed as the head-of-household and the owner of the property that has a value of \$12,000 at the start of the Depression (the equivalent of about \$197,109 in 2021 dollars).

Of additional note was that the 1930 census was also tracking radio ownership. This was well before the advent of television. Television had only been crudely and experimentally demonstrated in 1926/1927, so it would be many years before this means of communication and entertainment became sophisticated or attainable. A radio was an expensive piece of equipment that not everyone could afford, in general, and in the early days of the Great Depression in particular. The Woodberrys however, did have a radio. This meant that the household had an additional means of receiving information beyond newspapers, mail, and periodicals.

The 1940 federal census shows a new owner of 181 Central Street, Richard Hoddock. His occupation is listed as a "truckman" in the trucking industry. He lives at the home with his wife, mother-in-law, 7 sons, 2 daughters, 4 lodgers, and a housekeeper for a total of 17 people living at the property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hopkins map, 1874

Hopkins map, 1884

Bromley map plate 02, 1895

Stadley map, 1900

South Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

Federal Census data 1900-1940

Somerville City Directories

Zellie, Carole, *Beyond the Neck: The Architecture & Development of Somerville, Massachusetts*, Updated Edition, 1990



FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

48/B/23			
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Town/City: Somerville

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Winter Hill

Photograph



Address: 183 Central Street

Historic Name: John Walter Sanborn House

Uses: Present: residential

Original: residential

Date of Construction: 1895-1900

Source: 1895 Bromley & 1900 Stadley

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown to-date

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl-covered wood

Roof: slate

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

deck added above front portico and door created out of window in second story front façade oriel

Condition:

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: .12

Setting: urban residential side street; one of three buildings forming a strong, contiguous residential Colonial Revival street wall

Locus Map

See attached map.

Recorded by: City of Somerville, OSPCD

Organization: Planning Division

Date (*September 2021*):

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN

ADDRESS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

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Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

183 Central Street is one of three large, classic, Colonial Revival houses built in succession on this portion of Central Street (with 181 Central and 187 Central being the others). While these three houses form a strong Colonial Revival street wall, they are part of a larger architectural narrative that begins with a classical Greek Revival residence (178 Central St.) and ends with the Byzantine Revival synagogue at 201 Central St. 187 Central Street is an integral part of this architectural chronicle. Architectural details appear below:

The building is a center-entry, 2 ½-story Colonial Revival with a two-story rounded bay on either side of the front façade. The building is three bays wide and the center entry is flanked by wide side lites etched with a diamond motif. Three single dormers are present on the front elevation. The left and right front dormers present gabled dormer caps while the middle dormer is arched with a fanlight motif. A rounded oriel is present in the center of the second story of the front façade. One of the windows in the rounded second floor oriel appears to have been changed out to a door.

Right and left three-pillar clusters with Doric capitals support the open front portico roof. The front portico is enclosed at the sides up to roughly 3 feet up from the portico decking. A “roof deck” has been created atop the portico roof via the installation of a rail system with top rail, capped posts, and balusters. Paired curved metal railings flank the front entry steps.

The left and right elevations each present two single gabled dormers. The right elevation presents a two-story polygonal bay. The rear elevation presents a single gabled dormer.

Windows are one-over-one double-hung. The windows on either side of the second floor oriel are narrower than the standard windows used on the rest of the front façade. The windows on the front façade present fixed, non-functional shutters. The hip roof is slate. There is a deep eave and dentils on the cornice. Two brick chimney stacks are present on the main massing of the building. Stone foundation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

John Walter Sanborn and his wife, Julia, appear to be the original owners of this house built between 1895-1900. Sanborn (1855-1936) is descended from the Adams, Magoun, and Tufts families. The Adams and Tufts families were both prominent during the Revolutionary War. The Tufts family also owned enormous swaths of land throughout the City and, of course, Tufts University bears the family name. The Magoun side of Sanborn’s family is the Magoun for which Somerville’s Magoun Square is named. The family homestead, now referred to as the Adams-Magoun House

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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was built in 1783 and sits just further up the street at 438 Broadway. This house is one of the few remaining 18th-century houses left in Somerville and was once the farmstead for a 71-acre parcel.¹

Sanborn began his career as a commission merchant in the hay and grain business of Hathaway & Woods in Boston. In 1886 he continued in the industry with his own firm, J. Walter Sanborn & Company. His enterprise was as miller's agent and commission merchant. Sanborn & Company traded in hay, grain, flour, and produce.²

In addition to his business dealings, Sanborn was active in Somerville community affairs, serving as a vice-chair of the school board, vice-president of the Somerville Savings Bank and a member of its board of investment, as well as a member of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.³

As with other residents of Central Street including Dr. Charles Dickerman of 187 Central Street, Sanborn was active in the Masons. He was a member and past Worshipful Master of Somerville's Soley Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, a member of the Somerville chapter of the Royal Arch Masons, and a member of the Demoley Commandery, Knights Templar.⁴

Right: One of Sanborn's listing in the U.S. Mason's Membership card files.

Name <i>Sanborn, John Walter</i>			
Residence <i>Somerville</i>	Occupation <i>Com. merchant</i>	Nativity <i>75-5-5-4-2 Somerville</i>	
Lodge <i>Soley</i>	Initiated <i>1883-4-16</i>	Passed <i>1883-5-21</i>	Raised <i>1883-6-25</i>
Membership <i>1883-6-25</i> <i>UMU. 1893-95</i>	Dim. Sis. Dis.	Reinstated	Deceased <i>1936-12-29</i>
Remarks: <i>Vets. Medal 1933</i>			

The 1900 federal census confirms Sanborn's occupation and shows that he lives at 183 Central St. with his wife, two young sons ages 12 and 8, his mother-in-law, Hannah K. Stevens, and a live-in servant, Irish immigrant, Mary Kelly. Twenty years later, the 1920 federal census reveals that the household size has decreased; his sons have moved out and only he, his wife, and a live-in servant, Flora Foss, an immigrant from Newfoundland, Canada, remain in the home. Sanborn continues to work in the hay and grain industry. By 1930 Sanborn has left the hay and grain industry as this federal census reveals that he has taken on the occupation of bank president. It is unknown for how many years Sanborn continued to work after 1930, but passes away in 1936.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

¹ Cutler, William Richard, A.M. *Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. New York. 1905. p.1035-1036

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Hopkins map, 1874

Hopkins map, 1884

Bromley map plate 02, 1895

Stadley map, 1900

South Middlesex County Registry of Deeds

Federal Census data 1900-1930

U.S. Mason Membership Cards (Massachusetts) 1733-1990

Somerville City Directories

Cutler, William Richard, A.M. *Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. New York. 1905. p.1035-1036*

Zellie, Carole, *Beyond the Neck: The Architecture & Development of Somerville, Massachusetts*, Updated Edition, 1990



FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

48/B/24

Town/City: Somerville

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Winter Hill

Photograph



Address: 187 Central Street

Historic Name: Briggs – Dickerman House

Uses: Present: vacant; last used as Catholic Charities Daycare

Original: single family residential

Date of Construction: c.1895-1900

Source: historic maps: 1895 Bromley (plate 02) & 1900 Stadley

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: unknown to-date

Exterior Material:

Foundation: stone

Wall/Trim: vinyl over wood

Roof: asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Second story area above entry portico enclosed, date unknown

Condition: good

Moved: no yes **Date:**

Acreage: ~.22

Setting: urban residential side street

Locus Map

See attached map

Recorded by: City of Somerville, OSPCD

Organization: Planning Division

Date (*September 2021*):

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

TOWN

ADDRESS

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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 Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

187 Central Street is one of three large, classic, Colonial Revival houses built in succession on this portion of Central Street (with 183 Central and 181 Central being the others). While these three houses form a strong Colonial Revival street wall, they are part of a larger architectural narrative that begins with a classical Greek Revival residence (178 Central St.) and ends with the Byzantine Revival synagogue at 201 Central St. 187 Central Street is an integral part of this architectural chronicle.

Architectural details appear below:

Center-entry, 2 ½-story Colonial Revival with two, two-story rounded bays, one on each side of the center entry. Two-story polygonal bay extant on right and left elevations. Hip roof with deep eave. Three prominent single dormers on the front elevation. Left and right front dormers present gabled cap while middle dormer presents stylized scrolled broken. Five additional gabled dormers are distributed among the right, left, and rear rooflines.

An open, covered portico leads to entry door. Wood rails and turned balusters are present at the left and right boundaries of the wood portico decking. Right and left three-pillar clusters with Doric capitals support the portico roof. Area atop portico roof is enclosed (this is a later enclosure).

The center panel and glass entry door is flanked by paneled and glass side lites. Elongated fan light with trim molding is present atop the front entry door. Half-round pilasters with detailed capitals are positioned between the lites and the entry door itself.

Dentil molding is extant below the roofline of the portico and trim molding is found under same. Dentil molding is present on the cornice of the main body of the house. Non-functioning, fixed shutters flank windows on front façade of main body only.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to deed research, by at least 1892, Jonathan Brown owned most of the land on this block of Central Street as well as several parcels of land on what became Browning Road. In 1892 this land, including today's 187 Central Street, was laid out by civil engineer, George A. Kimball for Brown.

Historic map research indicates that this portion of Central Street in Winter Hill was late to develop. By 1895, 181 Central Street had been built. By 1900, both 187 Central Street and its neighbor, 183 Central, had both been built.

Sylvester R. Briggs is the first owner of 187 Central Street uncovered in the historic research. Briggs came from a long line of successful tanners and dealers in animal hides in Freetown, MA where he was himself born. Though Briggs initially started out as a teacher, he eventually went into the family business, becoming a partner in the firm S. Briggs & Son with his father. Eventually the firm became known as S.R. Briggs & Co. with Sylvester remaining a partner in this hide and leather firm until 1891. From 1891 Briggs devoted his business career to banking and investments. The 1910 federal census, in fact, states his occupation as "broker", referring to banking and investments.¹

This 1910 census shows that Sylvester Randall Briggs is the head of the household. By this time, his wife, Ellen P. Walker, had died, leaving him a widow. Living with Briggs (66) was one of his children, his daughter, Lena Briggs Porter (39) and her young

¹ Cutler, William Richard, A.M. *Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. New York. 1905. p.1616-1617*

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Area(s) Form No.

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children, Randall (11) and Katrine (4). The census states that Lena is married, but there is no mention of her husband living with them at 187 Central Street.



Briggs' unmarried sister, Harriet Briggs (71), also resided in the household as did two live-in servants, Julia O'Neil (27) who emigrated from Ireland, and Carrie Child (32) from Massachusetts. Harriet spent 10 years as a teacher and then worked as a cashier and bookkeeper for a religious organization. The Briggs family was heavily involved in the Unitarian Church.²

To be able to provide a home for so many family members and to have two live-in servants meant that Briggs was a man of means. Further evidence of this was the seeming "grand tour" -style trip that his daughter and sister, Harriet, are recorded as having taken. A "grand tour" was an extended world tour taken by people of means during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. A description of the tour was provided as follows:

They sailed from New York in the steamer "Grosser Kurfurst," of the North German Lloyd line, and visited Madeira, Gibraltar, Algiers, Malta, Athens, Constantinople, Smyrna and Ephesus, Beirut, Haifa and Mt. Carmel, taking an overland tri to Nazareth, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Jericho, the Jordan and Dead Sea, and returning visited Cairo, Naples and Rome.³

This is a trip that would have taken many months to complete. When contemplating the cost of the initial ship passage (and not in "steerage" class to be sure), the overland trips, accommodations, meals, additional ship passage along the way, this was a very

costly trip to make.

Right: The steamer Grosser Kurfurst



² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

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Right, top: Postcard of a forward passage of the *Grosser Kurfurst*, the steamer ship aboard which the Briggs women sailed on their world tour.⁴



Right, bottom: Dining room of the *Grosser Kurfurst*.⁵



⁴ Library of Congress

⁵ Library of Congress

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Right: Grosser Kurfurst Ladies' Cabin (Lounge)⁶



The same 1910 census provides further information: Briggs was a “broker” (recall the “banking and investments” in which he became involved after 1891), he was the owner of the house (as opposed to a renter) and he owned the home outright (it was free of a mortgage).

After Briggs’ death, the trustees of his estate sold the property to Herbert F. and Dora Baker in 1921. Not much has been found of the Bakers in the historical record to-date save for their listing in the 1924 and 1925 City Directories for Central Street. In the 1925 directory he is listed as a manager (mgr.), but it is unclear in what industry he worked.

In 1928 the property is purchased by Charles and Minnie Dickerman. Charles Dickerman was a medical doctor and his wife, Minnie, was a nurse. Dr. Dickerman started the Sunnyside Hospital, located at 400 Broadway in the house that is still at the corner of Broadway and Central Street today . Thus, Dr. Dickerman lived two lots away from the hospital that he founded and where he worked.

Below: 400 Broadway. Originally built as a residence by Cutler Downer who lived at 170 Central Street. Downer built several large residential structures including 400 Broadway, 396-398 Broadway, 392-394 Broadway, 192-201 Central (known as the Downer Rowhouses), and the rowhouses at 63 Adams Street). 400 Broadway later became the home of the Sunnyside Hospital founded by Dr. Charles Dickerson of 187 Central Street. Originally his hospital was located on Main Street until he moved it across the street to 400 Broadway.

⁶ Library of Congress

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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1930 Federal census reveals further information about the Dickermans. Both were born in Russia, with Dr. Dickerman immigrating to the U.S. in 1892. His first language was Yiddish, not Russian.

This same census shows that, in addition to the Dickermans and their two children, numerous nurses-in-training and domestic workers lived at the property, with a total of 14 people residing in the home at the same time. Most of the nurses likely worked at Sunnyside Hospital, thus living under the same roof as their employer. At least one occupant living at the house worked as a servant for a private family. The domestics living in the house were a hospital laundress and hospital cook (presumably also at Sunnyside). In addition to the Dickermans, three other occupants were also immigrants: two from Canada and one from Scotland. All non-family members are listed as "lodgers"; they paid for their room. The time of the census, 1930, was also just at the start of the Great Depression; it was not uncommon for numerous related and unrelated people to live under one roof for economic purposes.

The 1940 census reveals that there is now a total of 16 people living in this household: the Dickermans have added another child and one additional lodger. Most of the non-family members are full nurses working at a "private hospital", likely Sunnyside. In addition, there is a laborer and a maid working in a private home. The Dickermans continue to run and work at the Sunnyside Hospital.

It is worth noting that this census has an education component, asking the highest level of schooling each occupant has had. Dr. Dickerman completed college, his wife, high school. All of the nurses and the laborer completed education through the 8th grade only. While this may be surprising today, educational requirements were very different in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In addition to their medical work, it appears that the Dickermans were involved in Jewish philanthropic causes. At least one record shows that they donated \$275.00 to one organization, the Federation CJA, in 1944. This is the equivalent of roughly about \$4,100.00 in 2021 dollars. Their listing for the Combined Jewish Appeal for 1944 appears below:

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COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL
1944
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Deed Club — In memory of	18.00	Diane Dress Co	150.00	Dosick Mrs Morris	5.00
Dr Nelson Howard Caplan	10.00	Dichter Max	65.00	Douglas Harry	5.00
Deerfoot Farms Co	10.00	Dichter Mrs Max	5.00	Douglas Lewis	5.00
Deering E F Co Inc	20.00	Dickerman Dr Charles, Somerville	250.00	Douglas Morris	5.00
DeFillipo Joseph	5.00	Dickerman Mrs Charles	25.00	Dover Hardware Co	15.00
DeGroot Benjamin E & Mrs	225.00	Dickerman Jack	5.00	Dover Shoe Mfg Co	750.00
DeHaan Co	50.00	Dickerman Louis, Woburn	5.00	Special Contribution	750.00
DeHaan Mrs Jacob K	5.00	Dickson Ellis W	5.00	Dow Frederick W Leather Co	50.00
Deich Dr Jacob Frank, Winthrop	150.00	Dickson Harry, Cambridge	5.00	Downey Edward H	100.00
Deich Mrs Jacob Frank	10.00	Dickson Harry E	5.00	Downey Edward H	5.00
Deitch Edward	10.00	Dickson Mrs Harry E	5.00	Doxer Louis	5.00
Deitel Joseph, Winthrop	5.00	Dickson Percy W	5.00	Drazen Mrs Tillie	5.00
Deitz Mrs Joseph	7.00	Dickson Samuel	50.00	Drake Bakeries Inc	5.00
Dektor Harry	15.00	Diamond Mrs Hymen	5.00	Drapkin Joseph & Mrs, Waltham	25.00
Delahoyde Frank	10.00	Diamond Irving & Mrs	50.00	Drapkin Mrs Joseph	100.00
Delahunt E P	25.00	Diamond Mrs Irving	5.00	Drapkin Mrs Sylvia G	5.00
Delaney H	5.00	Diamond Lazarus	10.00	Dratch Benjamin, Somerville	35.00
Delaney Shoe Co	100.00	Diengott Mrs Samuel	20.00	Dree John P	5.00
Delcarho Mr, Malden	15.00	Dierauf Frank	5.00	Dreaser's Jewelry Inc	15.00
Del Garzo Guy	10.00	Dietrich William	15.00	In memory of Mrs Jennie Dreazen	10.00
Delicateaux Clerks' Union	100.00	Dietz Ernest F & Mrs	50.00	Dreben Mrs Robert, Chelsea	10.00
Local No 490	22.00	Dietz Mrs Ernest F	10.00	Dreshfield Mrs Nanette R	10.00
Dell Joseph, Chelsea	20.00	Dietz George	200.00	Dress Joseph, Malden	5.00
Dell Restaurant	5.00	Dietz Mrs George	20.00	Dress William I & Mrs, Malden	10.00
Delta Grotte Anthony, Cambridge	10.00	Dietz R A	10.00	Dressler Louis	5.50
Delheim Mrs Benjamin — In memory of Benjamin Delheim	15.00	Dilboy Pharmacy Inc	20.00	Dressman Louis	25.00
		Dillon Eli, Everett	5.00	Dretter Dr Lewis R & Mrs	100.00

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Dr. Dickerman was also a Master Mason-level member of the Masons Freedom Lodge in Somerville.

Reminiscences of Dr. Dickerman and his Winter Hill Sunnyside Hospital by current and former Somerville residents appeared in Somerville-centric online blogs as recently as 2005.

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- Hopkins map, 1874
- Hopkins map, 1884
- Bromley map plate 02, 1895
- Stadley map, 1900
- South Middlesex County Registry of Deeds (187 Central Street)
- Federal Census: 1910, 1930, 1940
- Somerville City Directories: 1924, 1925,
- Combined Jewish Appeal 1944 List of Contributors
- Boston Globe*, June 29, 1916
- Boston Globe*, 1917 obituaries
- Cutler, William Richard, A.M. *Historic Homes and Places and Genealogical Memoirs Relating to the Families of Middlesex County, Massachusetts*. New York. 1905. p.1616-1617
- Zellie, Carole, *Beyond the Neck: The Architecture & Development of Somerville, Massachusetts*, Updated Edition, 1990

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.131
Historic Name:	Downer Rowhouses
Common Name:	
Address:	192-200 Central St
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Winter Hill
Local No:	1035, 122
Year Constructed:	c 1880
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Row House; Second Empire
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House; Single Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	SMV.AY: Somerville Multiple Resource Area
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/11/1985); Nat'l Register MRA (09/18/1989); Nat'l Register Individual Property (09/18/1989)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Brick; Granite; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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NRMRA/IND 9/18/89

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
100 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

MHC# 1035

AREA FORM NO.

AY Winter Hill 122(3)

PI - Winter
USGS - BOSTON
SECT A

Town Somerville MRA



Address 192-200 Central Street

Historic Name Downer rowhouses

Present multifamily residence

Original 5-unit apartment row

DESCRIPTION

ca. 1830

Source map research

Style Second Empire

Architect unknown

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

Exterior Wall Fabric brick/granite

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acres less than one acre

Setting The apartment row located on a residential street, abuts a church on Broadway, a major Somerville thoroughfare.

See Attached Assessor's Map

GRID REFERENCE Z E N 19 - 327/170 - 4695/520

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date May 1985

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

192-200 Central Street, a well-preserved Second Empire style apartment row, retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and 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.

192-200 Central Street is a five-unit Second Empire-style brick row. The steep, straight-edged roof line indicates that it was built during the final years of that style's popularity. The overall proportions of the building are tall and narrow. Notable features include the full height, polygonal bays, recessed entrances, and boldly projecting cornices. The building also retains a scallop-shingled slate roof and projecting dormers with bracketed supported broken pediments.

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

Like its neighbor, 55 Adams Street (see map) 192-200 Central Street was built ca. 1880 by local real estate broker and Winter Hill resident Cutler Downer. Brick rowhouses began to be built for middle class residents in prestigious neighborhoods such as Winter Hill in the late 19th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Hopkins, G. M. Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1884

DO NOT REMOVE
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Broadway



LOT B 1737 Ⓞ

LOT 1 16,056 Ⓞ

LOT 10 2290 Ⓞ

OTS 6,7,8,9 11,269 Ⓞ

LOT 1 3018 Ⓞ

LOT 2 2553 Ⓞ

LOT 3 2550 Ⓞ

LOT 4 2546 Ⓞ

LOT 5 3286 Ⓞ

LOT 2 8690 Ⓞ

LOT 1 7800 Ⓞ

LOT 2 6881 Ⓞ

STRIP B PT. LOT 14 5097 Ⓞ

LOT A 4295 Ⓞ

LOT B 3675 Ⓞ

LOT B 4074 Ⓞ

LOT 7 4097 Ⓞ

LOT 8 PT. LOT 5 5294 Ⓞ

LOT B 5192 Ⓞ

LOT A 6064 Ⓞ

LOT A 6914 Ⓞ

CENTRAL ST.

LOT B 3206 Ⓞ

LOT A 3184 Ⓞ

3200 Ⓞ

3200 Ⓞ

15,463 Ⓞ

PT. LOT H 7327 Ⓞ

PT. LOTS 1 & 2 6840 Ⓞ

PT. LOT 2 8539 Ⓞ

LOT 3 4950 Ⓞ

LOT 5 5500 Ⓞ

LOT 6 5147 Ⓞ

LOT 17 3272 Ⓞ

LOT 16 5788 Ⓞ

REG. LOT 5338 Ⓞ

LOT 5 & PT. LOT 4 9475 Ⓞ

PT. LOTS 7 & 8 3600 Ⓞ

PT. LOT 8 3600 Ⓞ

LOT 9 3600 Ⓞ

LOT 3 & PT. LOT 4 5385 Ⓞ

LOT 2 5311 Ⓞ

LOT 1 2948 Ⓞ

LOT 3 3713 Ⓞ

BROWNING RD.

LOT 15 3900 Ⓞ

LOT 7 4331 Ⓞ

LOT 8 4798 Ⓞ

LOT 14 3596 Ⓞ

LOT 13 3237 Ⓞ

LOT 12 3236 Ⓞ

LOT 2 4244 Ⓞ

LOT 1 5541 Ⓞ

LOT 1 7199 Ⓞ

LOT 9 6597 Ⓞ

LOT 10 & PT. LOT 11 6457 Ⓞ

LOT D 5418 Ⓞ

LOT C 5400 Ⓞ

LOT B 4500 Ⓞ

LOT A 4722 Ⓞ

FORSTER ST.

LOT A 4710 Ⓞ

PT. LOT 1 3708 Ⓞ

LOT 2 3754 Ⓞ

LOT B 3414 Ⓞ

LOT 3 & PT. LOT 1 3874 Ⓞ

LOT C 3812 Ⓞ

LOT 4 3758 Ⓞ

LOT 1 8100 Ⓞ

LOT 2 5570 Ⓞ

LOT 3 2640 Ⓞ

LOT 4 3225 Ⓞ

LOT 1 4150 Ⓞ

LOT A 2231 Ⓞ

LOT B 6229 Ⓞ

LOT A 4722 Ⓞ

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.1166
Historic Name:	Temple B'Nai B'Rith Synagogue
Common Name:	
Address:	201 Central St
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Winter Hill
Local No:	48-B-25
Year Constructed:	1919
Architect(s):	Eisenberg, Samuel Saul; Minor, Wesley Lyng
Architectural Style(s):	Other
Use(s):	Chapel; Classroom; Library; Synagogue
Significance:	Architecture; Ethnic Heritage; Religion
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Tar, Built-up Wall: Brick; Cast Stone; Glass; Limestone Foundation: Cast Stone



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

Assessor's number

USGS Quad

Area(s)

Form Number

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

48/B/25	Boston-North		SMV.1166
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Town Somerville SELTA

Place (neighborhood or village) Winter Hill

Address 201 Central Street

Historic Name Temple B'Nai B'Rith

Use: Present Synagogue

Original Synagogue

Date of Construction 1919 -1925

Source Somerville Journal 12/23/1921 and City Directories

Style/Form Byzantine Revival / Rectangular

Architect/Builder W.L. Minor, 1919 & S.S. Eisenberg, 1925

Exterior Material

Foundation Concrete

Wall Buff brick, limestone facings & cast stone trim

Roof Tar & Gravel (?)

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures N/A

Major Alterations (with dates) Very intact

Condition Good

Moved yes no

Acreage 20,000 square feet

Setting Situated at the top of Winter Hill within an area of architecturally significant buildings located along and south of Broadway. Across the street from the synagogue is a handsome group of c.1880's brick mansard row houses.



RECEIVED

OCT 10 2005

MASS. HIST. COMM

Recorded by Edward W. Gordon

Organization Som. Historic Preservation Comm.

Date(month/day/year) 3/7/05

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION *see continuation sheet*

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

Built in 1919-1925, the B'nai Brith Synagogue is the finest example of a Byzantine Revival ecclesiastical building in Somerville. The synagogue is constructed of buff brick with limestone facings and cast stone trim. Preserved within the interior of the building is much original woodwork and lighting fixtures, as well as the large Ark secured from Boston's B'nai Israel Synagogue just prior to its 1915 demolition.

Possessing a distinctive, compact rectangular form, the synagogue measures three-bay's by-five-bays. Rising four-stories from a cast stone basement to flat-roofed structural components, the tripartite main facade features a trio of arched entrances set off by cast stone enframements. Access to the entrances is provided by a broad flight of concrete steps. The steps are flanked by high shouldered masonry components. Rising from atop these flanking components are original lighting fixtures in the form of tall cast stone columns supported by milk glass globes.

The center pavilion is characterized by a shallow three-bay projection from the main body of the building. Cast stone piers define the edges of the broad entrance bay. Flanking the entrance bay are narrow walls pierced by a single narrow window at each of their three stories. Above the arched entrances are three recessed panels that rise to the curving line of an arch. Set off by cast stone wall surfaces, the buff brick panels are pierced by a center, circular stained glass window depicting the Star of David. The circular window is flanked by narrow arched windows. The center pavilion culminates in a broad, low arch. At the apex of the arch are two round-arched cast stone panels depicting an open prayer book. Set back behind the center pavilion and rising from the center of the

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE *see continuation sheet*

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Built between 1919-1923, the origins of Winter Hill's B'nai Brith Synagogue lie in the organization of Somerville's Hebrew Educational Society in 1903. Somerville's Jews constituted one of the smaller early twentieth century Boston area Jewish communities with less than 4,000 members around 1900. Boston neighborhoods such as the North End, West End and South End became host to Jewish immigrants whose combined population approached 65,000 by 1910. Between the 1920s and the 1950s, the B'nai Brith Synagogue was the major focus of activity for Jews living in Somerville and Medford. The basement of the synagogue was designed by W. L. Minor, while the main body of the building was designed by S. S. Eisenberg. During the first half of the twentieth century, Eisenberg, designed a number of apartment buildings in Brookline as well as the Fenway and Allston-Brighton neighborhoods of Boston. B'nai Brith Synagogue also has significant historical associations with Rabbi Isadore Singer, an important Jewish theologian long associated with Beth El Synagogue in Manhattan Beach, New York who began his career at Temple B'nai Brith in Somerville during the mid 1920s.

According to late nineteenth century Somerville and Middlesex County Atlases, the synagogue's lot was part of the J. Frank Brown house lot. Brown was a clerk employed by the Market National Bank of Boston. His house still stands to the west of the synagogue at 177 Central Street. By 1900, Brown's parcel had been subdivided with the

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES *see continuation sheet*

- Bromley, George, *Atlases of the City of Somerville*, 1895; 1900.
 Hopkins, G. M., *Maps of the City of Somerville*, 1874; 1884.
 Sarna, Jonathan D. and Smith, Ellen, *The Jews of Boston*, Northeastern U Press, Boston, MA, 1995.
Somerville Journal, 2/6/1903, "Hebrew Synagogue Chartered"; *SJ* 11/ 26/ 1915, "To Build Synagogue."
SJ, 12/23 /21, "Will Lay Cornerstone"; *SJ* 9/14/1925, "Temple B'nai Brith, Central Street"; *SJ*, 10/27/1927, "Dedicatory Exercises, Temple B'nai Brith has Interesting Ceremonies Sunday Afternoon with Banquet in Evening"; *SJ*, 1/12/1995 "A Community Revives at Central Street Temple."
Temple B'nai Brith Website; Somerville Public Library, Local History Room Files.
 Zellie, Carole, *Beyond the Neck: The Architecture and Development of Somerville, MA*, 1982, 1990.

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Critical Statement form.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETTown:
Somerville, MAProperty Address:
201 Central StreetMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, BostonArea (s)
Winter Hill**Form No:**
SMV.1166

Indicate each item on inventory form, continued below.

Architectural Description Page 3

segmental arched pediment. The center, three-story component is flanked by crenelation in evidence atop the narrow flanking bays.

Ranged across the five bay side walls piers are corner pier-like structural components providing the structure vertical accents as well visually separating the tripartite windows at the first and second stories; these windows surmount rectangular brickwork panels. The tripartite windows of the side walls culminate in arches.

Historical Narrative synagogue's future site encompassing 19,299 square feet. During the fall of 1915, the congregation of B'nai B'rith purchased a lot atop Winter Hill on Central Street near Broadway for the purpose of building a synagogue. The synagogue's parcel contained approximately 20,000 square feet. The synagogue's location was chosen so it would be convenient for both the Jews of Somerville and Medford. Between 1917 and 1919, the congregation worshipped in the Knights of Columbus building. Previous to that they occupied Citizen Hall at Gilman Square. In July, 1919, plans were announced in the local press for imminent work on the forty-by-sixty foot foundation of the synagogue. Reportedly, the basement was completed in only a matter of weeks by "a large force of men." Even before the entire synagogue was completed, worship services were held in the basement. Using a roofed-over foundation, before the completion of the upper sanctuary, was standard practice at Somerville houses of worship. This approach to holding worship services on a construction site as soon as possible dates back to at least the early 1870s at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church at Union Square. In September of 1919 Rabbi H. Solomon of Atlanta, Georgia officiated at the first services held in B'nai Brith's basement.

The estimated cost of the B'Nai B'rith synagogue in 1919 was \$50,000. Of that figure, \$10,000 was earmarked for the construction of the basement. In 1919, the president of the synagogue was I. Lappin, while the building committee members included Ex-Alderman Joseph Hillson, Nason J. Levinson, David Menser, M. J. Barron, Max Glassman and Joseph Cohen. A *Somerville Journal* article written in December, 1921, noted that the building's first floor would contain classrooms, clubrooms, a banquet hall and kitchen, while the second floor would be occupied by an assembly and ballroom. The third floor was slated to be "the synagogue proper."

The temple's building committee hired Samuel S. Eisenberg of Chelsea to design the B'Nai B'rith Synagogue. Eisenberg was just beginning a career that stretched into the mid 1960s. Evidently the Somerville temple's building committee recognized the young architect's design talents. Eisenberg, as a newcomer intent on making a name for himself, may have intentionally submitted a low bid for the B'nai Brith project.

S. S. Eisenberg was a partner in the firm of Eisenberg and Feer between c. 1926 and 1945. An early Eisenberg and Feer project was the Mattapan Hebrew Community Center on Morton Street between Norfolk Street and Blue Hill Avenue. One of Eisenberg's most successful projects from a siting and design perspective was the Reservoir Garden Apartments at 1982-1992 Commonwealth Avenue in Brighton. Built between 1920 and 1925 on still-developing western Commonwealth Avenue, Eisenberg ranged four identical apartment buildings around a courtyard that complements and extends the park bordering the Chestnut Hill Reservoir on the south side of the apartments.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETTown
SomervilleProperty Address
201 Central StreetMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125Area (s)
Winter HillForm No.
SMV. 1166**Historical Narrative Page 4**

Upon its completion in the spring of 1925, Temple B' nai Brith's congregation encompassed 500 families drawn from Somerville, Cambridge, Medford, Arlington and other nearby communities. Two years later, an article in *The Somerville Journal* described the building as "a striking example of Byzantine architecture. The interior of the temple is finished in dark woods, in keeping with the style of the period, and the walls are of Artex, rough stipple plaster. A large assembly room, Covenant Hall, is on the ground floor, which is used for social purposes. Above this is the auditorium, the most striking feature being the large Ark, which was secured from B' nai Israel of Boston (in 1915). This ark which is probably the oldest one in the vicinity, is entirely hand carved, and for many years stood in the synagogue at Bowdoin Square, Boston. In it are kept the scrolls of the Law."

A *Somerville Journal* article dated October 27, 1927 mentions the dedicatory exercises associated with the "beautifully remodeled temple on Central Street." Although the dedicatory program is mentioned in detail no description is provided as to what the remodeling encompassed. A remodeling project only four years after the completion seems unlikely, but perhaps the program's purpose was to recognize an interior design that began with the end of the synagogue's construction in 1923 and was finally completed in the fall of 1927.

During the mid 1920s, Rabbi Isadore Singer played an important role in the early growth of Temple B' Nai Brith. Born in Romania around 1900, Rabbi Singer received his early Hebrew education from his father. Entering Jewish Theological Seminary in New York City in 1917, he graduated from that institution in 1924. He also earned degrees from City University of New York and Columbia Teacher's College. His first congregation was Temple B' Nai Brith in Somerville, MA. Rabbi Singer later moved to Temple Beth El in Manhattan Beach, New York where he also headed the Congregation's Hebrew School. He served as a chaplain during World War II and was stationed in Illinois. Rabbi Singer's Papers, including pamphlets on the B' nai Brith Synagogue dating to 1925, are housed in the archives of the Jewish Theological Seminary at 3080 Broadway in Manhattan, NYC.

Fast-forwarding to the mid-1970s, the future prospects of the B' Nai Brith Synagogue as a house of worship were grim with a membership of only 25 people. The congregation struggled to have a minyan or the requisite ten people needed to conduct a service. The social life surrounding any religious community was gone, including the dinners that so many members looked forward to from week to week. The building fell into disrepair and the once vibrant congregation nearly folded as their members died or retired to warmer climates. As the 1970's drew to a close, no young people were joining the synagogue to augment the depleted ranks of the aging religious organization. Indeed, the Hebrew school closed in 1972. Rabbi Leo Shubow, the synagogue's last full-time rabbi, retired in 1978 and the congregation could not afford to find a replacement for him. According to long-time member Lucy Mabel, the thought of closing down and joining Medford's Temple Beth Shalom was entertained for a time.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEETTown
SomervilleProperty Address
201 Central StreetMASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125Area (s)
Winter HillForm No.
SMV. 1166**Historical Narrative Page 5**

During the 1980s, B' Nai B' rith's congregation experienced a reversal of fortune, thanks in part to the efforts of Morris and Ada Kleiman. The couple persuaded the temple's darshan or spiritual leader, to stay. They ferried people to Saturday services via their own vehicle and wrote the religious society's newsletter and generally made members feel welcome. In Phillip Weiss' opinion the revitalization of the synagogue occurred because of "a general spiritual hunger out there, and tolerance for members from all walks of life".

By 1995, the congregation embraced 400, adult members with as many as 50 actively involved in the building committee. Long-time synagogue member Lucille Mabel noted that the new members were well educated with lots of doctors and lawyers participating in the services. Growing up in the 1920s and 1930s, she remembered a congregation whose heads of households were drawn from the ranks of small businessmen and tradesmen. Back in the early days of the synagogue, women were housewives with the time to organize events in support of the synagogue, but as the twentieth century progressed women had to work outside of the home and their time for volunteer activities became a precious commodity. Since the 1990s volunteer efforts have been focused on raising money to repair and preserve the building.

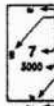
Today, Temple B' Nai Brith is home to an independent egalitarian congregation with historic roots in the Conservative movement. Described as "small and evolving," the congregation welcomes newcomers, no matter what their level of knowledge about Judaism. The congregation is fortunate to have such a beautiful and spacious building that houses the William and Saul Zidel Library, small meeting rooms and classrooms, as well as the Blumsack Chapel---all located at the lower level. The building also encompasses Nissenbaum Hall, a commodious facility used for celebrations, as well as the sanctuary with its beautiful woodwork, furnishings and lighting fixtures.

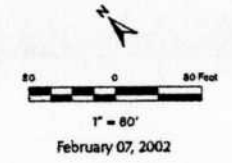


City of
Somerville
Massachusetts



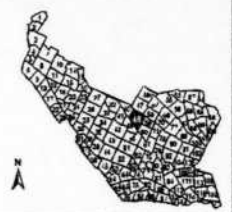
Assessors Map

- Parcel Boundary
 - Block Boundary
 - - - Assessor Map Boundary
 - Water Body
 - Building
 - ▨ Railroad ROW
- 
 Lot Dimensions
 Lot Number
 Square Footage
 Frontage Dimension
 Street Address



Sources: Right-of-way and building footprints developed from Boston Edison Company data, 1995. Parcel data developed from assessor maps by Camp Dresser & McKee, 1999.

NOTE: The data is presented on three maps indicate distances and decided locations of cadastral boundaries in the City of Somerville. They are NOT survey data and should not be treated as such.



MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Community Property Address
SOMMERVILLE, MA 201 CENTRAL STREET

Area(s) Form No.
WINTER HILL

SMV.1166

National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- Individually eligible Eligible only in a historic district
 Contributing to a potential historic district Potential historic district

Criteria: A B C D

Criteria Considerations: A B C D E F G

Statement of Significance by _____
The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.

The B'Nai Brith Synagogue at 201 Central Street is individually eligible for listing on the N. R. H. P. As well as a contributing historic property to a potential Winter Hill N. R. H. P. District.

Built between 1919-1923, the origins of B'Nai Brith Synagogue in Winter Hill lie in the organization of Somerville's Hebrew Educational Society in 1903. Somerville's Jews constituted one of the smaller Jewish communities in Boston, numbering less than 4,000 members by 1900. Boston neighborhoods, such as the North End, West End and South End, became host to Jewish immigrants whose combined population approached 65,000 by 1910. Between the 1920s and the 1950s, the B'nai Brith Synagogue was the major focus of activity for Jews living in Somerville and Medford. The synagogue's architect was S.S. Eisenberg, During the first half of the twentieth century, Mr. Eisenberg was a designer of apartment buildings in Brookline as well as in the Fenway and Allston-Brighton neighborhoods of Boston. B'Nai Brith Synagogue also has significant historical associations with Rabbi Isadore Signer, an important Jewish theologian, began his career at Temple B'Nai Brith in Somerville during the mid 1920s. The B'nai Brith Synagogue satisfies criteria A of the N. R. H. P.

Built in 1919-1925, the B'nai Brith Synagogue at 201 Central Street is the finest example of the Byzantine Revival style in Somerville. The synagogue is constructed of buff brick with limestone facings and cast stone trim. Preserved within the interior of the building is much original woodwork and lighting fixtures, as well as the large Ark secured from Boston's B'nai Israel synagogue just prior to its demolition in 1915. The B'nai Brith Synagogue satisfies criteria C of the N. R. H. P

BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT—DISTRICT POLICE

PLAN RECORD

CASE	C	RACK	3	APART.	7	NO.	8208
BUILDING	Cong. B'nai Brith					STORIES	2B
CITY OR TOWN	Somerville		STREET	Central			
TO BE USED FOR	Religious Purposes					CLASS	Church
OWNER	Cong. B'nai Brith						Brick
ARCHITECT	S. S. Eisenberg						

CERTIFICATE APPROVAL—~~SPECIFICATION REQUIREMENTS~~—REFERREDDATE **Apr 3, 1917**INSPECTOR **Lewis**

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.334
Historic Name:	
Common Name:	Downer, Cutler Double House
Address:	392-394 Broadway
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Winter Hill
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	c 1874
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Second Empire
Use(s):	Multiple Family Dwelling House
Significance:	Architecture
Area(s):	SMV.BA: Somerville Single Building Local Historic District
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (10/31/1989)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Asphalt Shingle Wall: Wood; Wood Clapboard



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

*Pl. WINTER
VUS. BOSTON
SECT A
LHD-10/31/89
(all three)*

AREA

FORM NO.

Winter Hill

334

SOMERVILLE

392-394, 396-398, 400 Broadway

Original Name Cutler Downer (developed)

1023

1024

Present residential

Original residential

OPTION

ca. 1874

maps/directories

Second Empire

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard, synthetic siding, asphalt brick

Outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates)

synthetic sidings

Condition fair

Moved _____ Date _____

Acres 6400 + 6390 + 5638 sq. ft.

Setting Three building on the southeast corner of Broadway and Central, on heavily travelled route undergoing constant change, residential & comme

Carole Zellie - 1980

Recorded by Gretchen Schuler - 1988

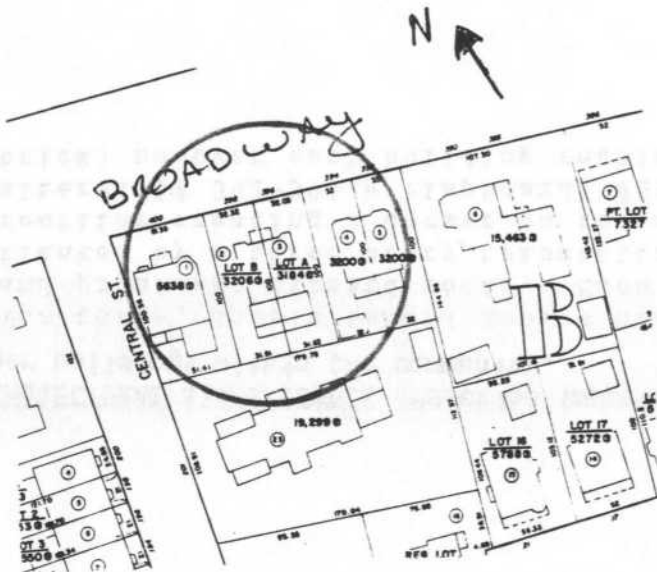
Somerville Historic

Organization Preservation Commission

Date May, 1988



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



UTM REFERENCE _____

USGS QUADRANGLE _____

SCALE _____

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

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

The three, double Second Empire houses have similar plans, exterior facades and prominent mansard roofs. Each has a center entrance of two doors flanked by a three story tripartite bay which is carried through the roofline creating a dormer on the double houses. The siding has been altered (# 392-394 = clapboard, #396-398 = synthetic siding, #400= asphalt brick) however each building retains the brackets and dentil details.

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

Much of Broadway developed after the Civil War and many of the substantial homes, belonging to locally prominent businessmen, were in the Second Empire Style. From many of these houses, sited on natural summits, one enjoyed vistas of Charlestown and the Mystic River. Local industry and workers' housing was confined to areas north of Broadway in the Ten Hills area. Most of the large Broadway homes were owned by the occupants, with the exception of some speculative development of which these three double mansard rowhouses are examples.

Cutler Downer, who lived at #170 Central Street and owned large tracts of land in the area, built these three houses. Subsequent owners and occupants had various jobs in Boston and Somerville. For example, Edward Waldron who lived at #396 Broadway was a general agent for the International Steamship Company in Boston.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1. Atlas of Middlesex County, Somerville: 1874 ("Cutler Downer", all three), 1884 ("Sarah Lathrope", no name on two), 1895 ("Gustaf Lyon & Henry H. Upham, Edward Waldron, Martha Noyes")
2. City Directories, 1870s-1890s.
3. City of Somerville, Beyond the Neck: The Architecture and Development of Somerville, Massachusetts, 1983.
4. Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County: Book Page .

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.134
Historic Name:	Broadway Winter Hill Congregational Church
Common Name:	
Address:	404 Broadway
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Winter Hill
Local No:	1037, 118
Year Constructed:	1890
Architect(s):	Hartwell, Richardson & Driver
Architectural Style(s):	Shingle Style
Use(s):	Church
Significance:	Architecture; Religion
Area(s):	SMV.AY: Somerville Multiple Resource Area
Designation(s):	Local Historic District (03/11/1985); Nat'l Register MRA (09/18/1989); Nat'l Register Individual Property (09/18/1989)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Granite; Marble; Slate; Wood Shingle; Stone, Cut Foundation: Granite; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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LHD - 3/11/85 (C)

NRMRA/IND
9/18/89 (C)

MHC# 1032

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FORM B - BUILDING

AREA

FORM NO.

AY

118
134

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

81
B1



Sk
in
ge
be
in
In

Town Somerville PI-Winter
Address 404 Broadway USGS-BOSTON
SECT A
Historic Name Broadway Winter Hill
Congregational Church
Use: Present religious
Original religious

DESCRIPTION

Date 1890-1891
Source Samuels, Somerville Past and
Present
Style Shingle Style
Architect Hartwell and Richardson
Exterior Wall Fabric granite / shingle
Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Southwest corner of Broadway
and Central St., on main route among
multi-family residential apartment
houses, some offices. Urban setting

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date September, 1983

See Attached Assessor's Map

UTM REFERENCE Z E N
19 327/190 4695/550

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Broadway Winter Hill Congregational Church, a Hartwell and Richardson design in the Shingle Style is significant for its association with the development of the Winter Hill area of Somerville, and its association with well known architectural firm. It retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and fulfills Criteria A, B, and 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.

The Broadway Winter Hill Congregational Church is one of Somerville's finest architect designed buildings and one of the only Shingle Style institutional structures. Characteristic of the Shingle Style are the multiple slate covered roofs of varying shapes including pyramidal, conical and gable, the granite and shingle clad facades and the various architectural shapes that form the building. The materials are of interest and include local slate "Somerville Stone" from the Fitzgerald's Quarry in Somerville for the square tower, blue Rutland marble for the sills, copings and steps, and rough granite block stone for the corner tower.

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

In 1863, under the leadership of Samuel Carlton, Winter Hill residents organized a Sabbath School. In 1865 a congregation of 28 was formed. By 1881 there were issues of division and the congregation split with some members forming the Broadway Congregational Church and others organizing as the Winter Hill Congregational Society. It was the latter group that remained in alliance with the Sabbath School. The Winter Hill Congregational Society used a Gothic Chapel, built in 1871, for worship prior to the construction of this building in 1890.

Renown architects Hartwell, Richardson, and Driver designed this church building in the Shingle Style. The building is significant for its well defined architectural style and its association with the well known architectural firm. It is also important for its association with the development of the Winter Hill community and religious organization in Somerville.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- Bromely, G.W., Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1894.
 Samuels, Edward, Somerville: Past and Present, 1897.
Somerville Journal, November 15, 1890.

