

AUG 04 1989

1239

FORM B - BUILDING

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

Winter Hill 119

Town Somerville MRA

Address 438 Broadway

Historic Name Adams-Magoun House

Photo (3"x3" or 3"x5", black and white) Indicate address of property on back of photo. Staple to left side of form.

Use: Present residence

Original residence

DESCRIPTION

Date 1783

Source Town Histories

Style Federal

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

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

Major Alterations (with dates) none

Condition excellent condition

See Attached Assessor's Map

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage Less than one acre.

Setting The Adams-Magoun House is set on a low rise overlooking a major thoroughfare in the Winter Hill Section of Somerville.

UTM REFERENCE Z 19 - E 327/040 - N 4695/640

USGS QUADRANGLE Easton North

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Massachusetts Historical Comm.

Date May 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Adams-Magoun House, the best-preserved of Somerville's 18th century residences, retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association. The house, once the seat of the 91-acre farm, meets Criterion A for its associations with Somerville's agricultural past, and Criterion C as an intact vernacular example of the transition from the Georgian to the Federal style. Both Criteria of the National Register of Historic Places are fulfilled on the local level.

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

The Adams-Magoun House is one of the four oldest structures in Somerville; of these, it is the only one remaining in an excellent state of preservation. Built ca. 1783, the Adams-Magoun House is an early example of the Federal Style, and it was built according to the Georgian four-room, center-hall plan. Typical late-18th and early-19th century houses in this vicinity were rural in character, and not high-styled. The 2 1/2 story gable roof house is sited with its gable end to the street. The five-bay facade contains a central pedimented entrance with five-part leaded fanlight. The cornice rests on the lintels of the windows of the upper story. The gable roof has very wide eaves; there are two interior brick chimneys on the rear slope.

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

The Adams-Magoun House was built ca. 1783 by Joseph Adams, a member of the same Adams family as the second and fifth U.S. Presidents. Adams married Sarah Tufts, the daughter of Peter and Anne Tufts who also lived on Broadway. Joseph and Sarah Adams had a daughter, Sarah Anne, who married John C. Magoun, for whom Magoun Square is named. The 71-acre Adams farm extended from the Broadway to the Boston and Maine railroad, between Central and Lowell Streets.

The Adams-Magoun House is the last eighteenth century house to survive on the entire length of Broadway. This street, once known as the "Road to Menotomy," had numerous buildings during the late-17th and early-18th centuries (particularly at the eastern end near Charlestown Neck). Some development, primarily scattered farmhouses, occurred at the western end in the 18th century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Samuels, E. Somerville Past and Present, 1981.
Somerville Historical Society - photograph collection

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Somerville MPS
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review Date/Signature

11. Adams--Magoun House Entered in the National Register Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/18/89
Attest _____

12. Bacon, Clifton, House Entered in the National Register Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/18/89
Attest _____

506 13. Barnes, Walter S. and Melissa E., House Substantive Review Keeper *Beth J. Savage* 3/8/90
Attest _____

14. Brackett, S.E., House Entered in the National Register Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/18/89
Attest _____

15. Broadway Winter Hill Congregational Church Entered in the National Register Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/18/89
Attest _____

16. Brooks, James H., House Entered in the National Register Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/18/89
Attest _____

17. Central Library Entered in the National Register Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/18/89
Attest _____

18. Cliff, Z.E., House Entered in the National Register Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/18/89
Attest _____

19. Cook, Thomas, House Entered in the National Register Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/18/89
Attest _____

20. Cooper--Davenport Tavern Wing Entered in the National Register Keeper *Delores Byers* 9/18/89
Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Adams--Magoun House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Somerville MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Middlesex

DATE RECEIVED: 8/04/89 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/89
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/89 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/18/89
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 89001239

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9/8/89 DATE Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph
 completeness
 clarity
 applicable criteria
 justification of areas checked
 relating significance to the resource
 context
 relationship of integrity to significance
 justification of exception
 other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



438 Broadway

1. 438 Broadway
2. Somerville, MA
3. Carol Zellie
4. 1983
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking southwest
7. # 119

Adams - Magoun House
Somerville, MA, Ma

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253