

AUG 04 1989

1257

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
10 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA FORM NO.

Ward II	136
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Town Somerville MRA

Address 81 Eustis Street

Historic Name Cooper-Davenport Tavern Wing

Use: Present residence/apartments

Original tavern/inn

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

**DESCRIPTION**

Date 1808

Source Northwest Cambridge, Vol. V.

Style Federal

Architect none

Exterior Wall Fabric asphalt shingle

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

See Attached Assessor's Map

Major Alterations (with dates) The west wing is the only portion of the building surviving. Replacement siding, rear porch addition, window sash (now 2/2) were all added in the early 20thc.  
Condition poor

from Beech St. near  
Moved Mass. Ave, Cam-Date 1885  
bridge

Acreeage Less than one acre

Setting The building is located in a densely set urban residential area on the Somerville/Cambridge border.

UTM REFERENCE Z 19 - 325/960 - N 4694/320

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date May 1986

#### **NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)**

The Cooper-Davenport wing retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship and association. As a well-detailed late Georgian-early Federal building that represents a significant portion of an important colonial early national tavern, the building meet Criterion C and Exception B 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 Cooper-Davenport Tavern wing is important as one of the earliest structures, standing in Somerville and one of only a few Federal-period buildings extant in the City.

The Cooper-Davenport Tavern wing is a Late Georgian (ca. 1806) wing of angular outline that was added to the western end of the original Cooper-Davenport Tavern, which stood on Massachusetts Avenue at the corner of Beech Street in northwest Cambridge. The main part of the tavern was built in 1757 by Jonathan Cooper, and was demolished ca. 1888, at that time this wing was spared and moved to its present site on Eustis Street in Somerville.

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

Once at the intersection of the Cambridge-Concord Road and the Medford-Charlestown Road, the Davenport Tavern wing was moved from Beech Street to its present site in 1885, when the rest of the building was razed to make way for the St. James Episcopal Church. The main portion was a Georgian-style building erected in 1757 by Jonathan Cooper and was operating as a tavern within the next decade. The tavern passed through a number of hands serving the growing commercial area that evolved near Beech Street and North Street (later Massachusetts Avenue) in the late-18th and early-19th centuries. In 1806, shortly after the opening of the Middlesex Turnpike along the same route, John Davenport acquired the tavern. Davenport refurbished and expanded the building adding the nominated portion, a 2 1/2 story late georgian-early Federal-style wing. During the early-19th century, Davenport tavern was a well-known way station, famous for its "flip" a popular drink. Since it was moved in the late-19th century, the building has been in residential use.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

Cambridge Historical Commission. Northwest Cambridge, Vol V. p 121;  
illustration of original tavern, p. 135.



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<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u><i>Helena Byers</i></u>   | <u>9/18/89</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |
| 12. Bacon, Clifton, House                         | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u><i>Helena Byers</i></u>   | <u>9/18/89</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |
| 13. Barnes, Walter S. and Melissa E.,<br>House    | <b>Substantive Review</b>           | for Keeper | <u><i>Beth J. Savage</i></u> | <u>3/8/90</u>  |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |
| 14. Brackett, S.E., House                         | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u><i>Helena Byers</i></u>   | <u>9/18/89</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |
| 15. Broadway Winter Hill Congregational<br>Church | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u><i>Helena Byers</i></u>   | <u>9/18/89</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |
| 16. Brooks, James H., House                       | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u><i>Helena Byers</i></u>   | <u>9/18/89</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |
| 17. Central Library                               | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u><i>Helena Byers</i></u>   | <u>9/18/89</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |
| 18. Cliff, Z.E., House                            | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u><i>Helena Byers</i></u>   | <u>9/18/89</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |
| 19. Cook, Thomas, House                           | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u><i>Helena Byers</i></u>   | <u>9/18/89</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |
| 20. Cooper--Davenport Tavern Wing                 | Entered in the<br>National Register | for Keeper | <u><i>Helena Byers</i></u>   | <u>9/18/89</u> |
|   |                                     | Attest     | _____                        |                |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Cooper--Davenport Tavern Wing

MULTIPLE NAME: Somerville MPS

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: 89001257

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    9/18/89 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

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



81 Eustis

1. 81 Eustis St.
2. Somerville, MA
3. Carol Zelle
4. 1983
5. Somerville City Hall
6. Looking southwest
7. #136

Cape-Dauphin Tavern Way  
Somerville MA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253