

AUG 04 1989

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
10 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA	FORM NO.
Winter Hill	102

Town Somerville MRA

Address 55 Adams Street

Historic Name Downer rowhouses

Use: Present multifamily housing

Original 5-unit row house

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 ca. 1880

Source map research

Style Second Empire

Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric brick

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

See Attached Assessor's Map

Condition good

Moved no Date n/a

Acreage less than one acre

Setting 55 Adams Street is located in an area two-family and of multifamily dwellings with several large late-19th century dwellings at the bottom of Adams Street near Medford. Broadway, a major east-west route passes within a block of the Downer rowhouses.

GRID REFERENCE 19 - 327/120 - 4695/510

Recorded by Betsy Friedberg, Preservation Planner

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North, Mass.

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

SCALE 1:25,000

Date May 1986

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

One of Somerville's earliest rowhouses, 55 Adams Street is a fine example of the Second Empire style. The building 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.

55 Adams Street is one of the finest brick rows of Winter Hill. This four-story (with above grade basement level) five-unit row is distinguished by five full-height polygonal bays, broken-pedimented dormers, a scallop-patterned, straight-sided mansard roof and brownstone lintels and sills.

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

The Downer rowhouses were built (ca. 1880) at a time when the top of Winter Hill was a fashionable residential enclave. Lots were large, and many of the residences were architecturally distinguished. 55 Adams Street is one of Somerville's earliest rowhouses, designed for prosperous middle class residents. Most, such as this one, were built on speculation by Cutler Downer and a real estate developer. Downer also built an adjoining brick row behind 55 Adams Street, fronting Central Street (#122).

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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



DOWNER ROWHOUSES
 55 ADAMS ST
 SOMERVILLE (MRA), MASS

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
21. Crowell, C.C., House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Aelores Byers</i></u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
22. Downer Rowhouses (Adams Street) <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Aelores Byers</i></u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
23. Downer Rowhouses (Central Street) <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Aelores Byers</i></u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
24. First Unitarian Church <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u><i>Beth L. Saurge</i></u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
25. First Universalist Church <i>Substantive Review</i>	Keeper <u><i>Beth L. Saurge</i></u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
26. Foster, Alexander, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Aelores Byers</i></u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
27. Gaut, Samuel, House <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Aelores Byers</i></u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
28. Grandview, The <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Aelores Byers</i></u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
29. Highland, The <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Aelores Byers</i></u> 9/18/89 Attest _____
30. Hollander Blocks <i>Entered in the National Register</i>	Keeper <u><i>Aelores Byers</i></u> 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 NAME: Downer Rowhouses (Adams Street)

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: 89001225

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

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 _____



55 Adams

Rowhouses
55 Adams St.
Somerville MRA, Ma

1. 55 Adams St.
2. Somerville, MA
3. Carol Zellie
4. 1988
5. Somerville City Hall
6. Looking northeast
7. # 102

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253