

FORM B - BUILDING

AUG 04 1989

1280

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

160

Town Somerville MRAAddress 29 Powderhouse TerraceHistoric Name Z. E. Cliff HouseUse: Present residentialOriginal residential

DESCRIPTION

Date ca. 1900Source map researchStyle shingle/colonial revivalArchitect builder Z. E. CliffExterior Wall Fabric clapboardOutbuildings noneMajor Alterations (with dates) additions
of bay windows after 1904Condition excellentMoved no Date n/aAcreage less than one acreSetting on curving street at the edge of
Tufts ParkRecorded by Betsy Friedberg, PreservationOrganization Mass. Historical CommissionDate June 1986

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

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

Z E N

JTM REFERENCE 19 - 325/760 - 4696/100JGS QUADRANGLE Boston NorthSCALE 1:25,000

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Z. E. Cliff House, residence of a prominent Somerville developer and politician, is a finely articulated example of the Shingle Style. Retaining integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and fulfills Criterion A 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 Z. E. Cliff House is an excellent example of the Shingle-Style, one of the best remaining examples in Somerville. It is characterized by a broad gambrel roof and diamond-paned window mullions in several windows. The "sucked-in" gable window, slightly recessed with contoured shingled reveals, was a hallmark of the style. Polygonal bay windows were added a few years after the building's ca. 1900 construction.

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

As one of Somerville's most active builders. Zebedee E. Cliff had a great impact on the city's development. He was an alderman and was later elected Mayor. Cliff as a carpenter-turned-developer who built many of the city's finest one-and-two-family houses; Powderhouse Terrace in northeastern Somerville was among his finest residential development. At the time of his death, Cliff was credited with over \$2 million worth of construction.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Bromley, G. W. Atlas of the City of Somerville, 1895
1904 Somerville Director

160

1" = 100'

CITY LINE
CENSUS TRACT LINE (B)
PARCEL OR LOT LINE
STREET LINE
RIGHT OF WAY LINE
BLOCK LETTER
LOT NO.
PARCEL NO.
HOUSE STREET NO.
SQUARE FOOTAGE OF 1
DIMENSION (FROM DEEL)

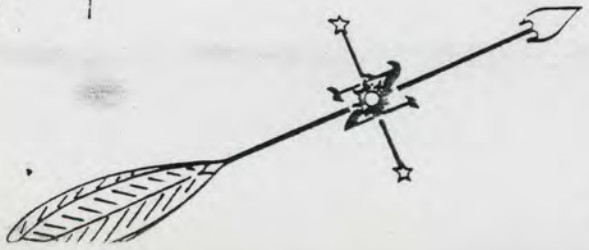
NOTES A



Z.E. Cliff House
29 Powderhouse Ter.
Somerville (MRA),
Mass.

29 Powderhouse

DRAWN BY:
D. McNamara
ASSISTANT
DRAFTSMAN:
F. Henry
RESEARCH
CONSULTANT:
M. Campbell



United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic GroupName Somerville MPS
State Middlesex County, MASSACHUSETTS

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Adams--Magoun House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 9/18/89

Attest _____

12. Bacon, Clifton, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 9/18/89

Attest _____

13. Barnes, Walter S. and Melissa E.,
House

Substantive Review

Keeper

John J. Savage 3/8/90

Attest _____

14. Brackett, S.E., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 9/18/89

Attest _____

15. Broadway Winter Hill Congregational
ChurchEntered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 9/18/89

Attest _____

16. Brooks, James H., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 9/18/89

Attest _____

17. Central Library

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 9/18/89

Attest _____

18. Cliff, Z.E., House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 9/18/89

Attest _____

19. Cook, Thomas, House

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene Byers 9/18/89

Attest _____

20. Cooper--Davenport Tavern Wing

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper

Helene 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 NAME: Cliff, Z. E., House

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: 89001280

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

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
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



29 Powderhouse Terrace

1. 29 Powderhouse Terrace
2. Somerville, MA
3. C. Zelle
4. 1984
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking Southeast
7. #160

Cliff, Z. E., Hedge Somerville MA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253