

AUG 04 1989

AREA

FORM NO.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

169

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

UTM REFERENCE 19 - 327/100 - 4695/100

USGS QUADRANGLE Boston North

SCALE 1:25,000

Town Somerville

Address 78 Sycamore Street

Historic Name Peter & Oliver Tufts

House

Use: Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

Date 1714-1719

Source town histories

Style Georgian with Federal alterations

Architect none

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings none

Major Alterations (with dates) Italianate doorhood, fenestration, late-19th c.

Condition good

Moved yes, on same lot Date 1892

Acreage less than one acre

Setting West side of Sycamore Street among other residential properties of mid to late-19th century, some new apartment construction

Recorded by Gretchen G. Schuler

Organization Mass. Historical Commission

Date September, 1988

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

The Tufts House is one of only two extant 18th century houses in the Winter Hill area of Somerville. It is important architecturally and historically to the development of Somerville and representative of the transition from an agricultural to industrial community. The Tufts house retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. It fulfills Criteria A and C of the National Register of Historic Places at the local level. The house fulfilled Exception B because its move was within the same lot. It was only moved back from the street.

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

The Peter/Oliver Tufts House displays its original form of a gambrel roof, two and one-half story, five-bay dwelling that has undergone some alterations. Although the house has been sheathed in shingles it is presently being rehabilitated with clapboards and fenestration of 6/6 sash. The house has a mid-19th century Italianate doorhood with heavily carved brackets.

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, a 4000 foot drumlin in the north section of Somerville, was settled along Broadway (originally Winter Hill Road) and several rangeways extending south from Broadway. Only two 18th century houses survive in this area. Built ca. 1714, the Peter/Oliver Tufts House, so named to commemorate the 1787 to 1900s owners, occupied land set off to Elias Rowe in 1685. Peter Tufts bought the dwelling in 1778 and eventually acquired land comprising a farm extending as far west as Central Street and south of the Boston-Lowell Railroad tracks constructed in 1835. The house was situated close to the driveway which later became Sycamore Street and the house was moved to the rear of the present lot. The farm was used for grazing and farming. The Tufts family were active in establishing the early brick yards of Somerville, however, none were built in the immediate vicinity of Sycamore Street.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Draper, Martin, Map of Somerville, 1852
Somerville Historic Leaves, vol 1, April 1902. vol VIII, January 1910.

CENTRAL

MEDFORD ST.

#159

TENNYSON ST.

SYCAMORE ST.



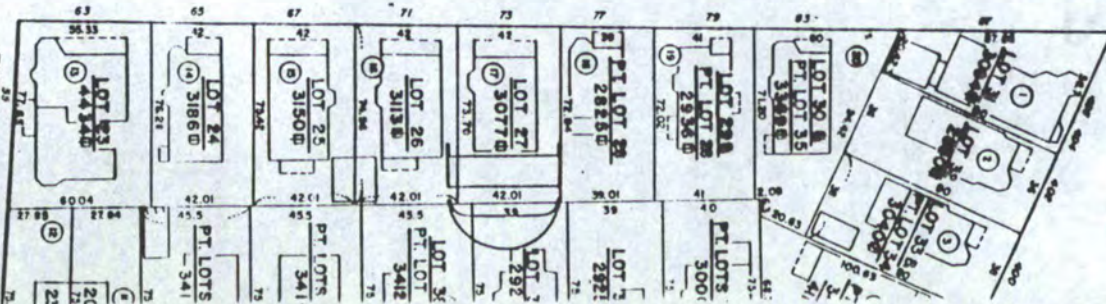
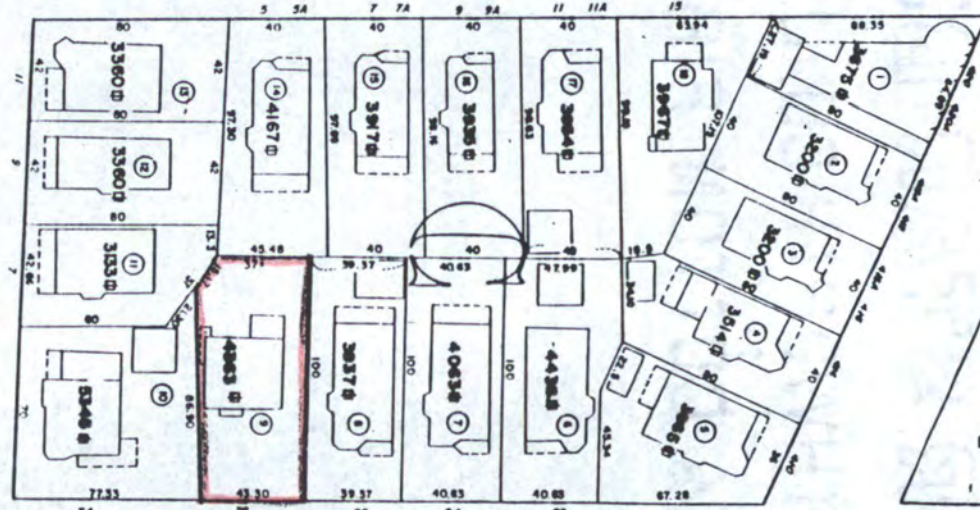
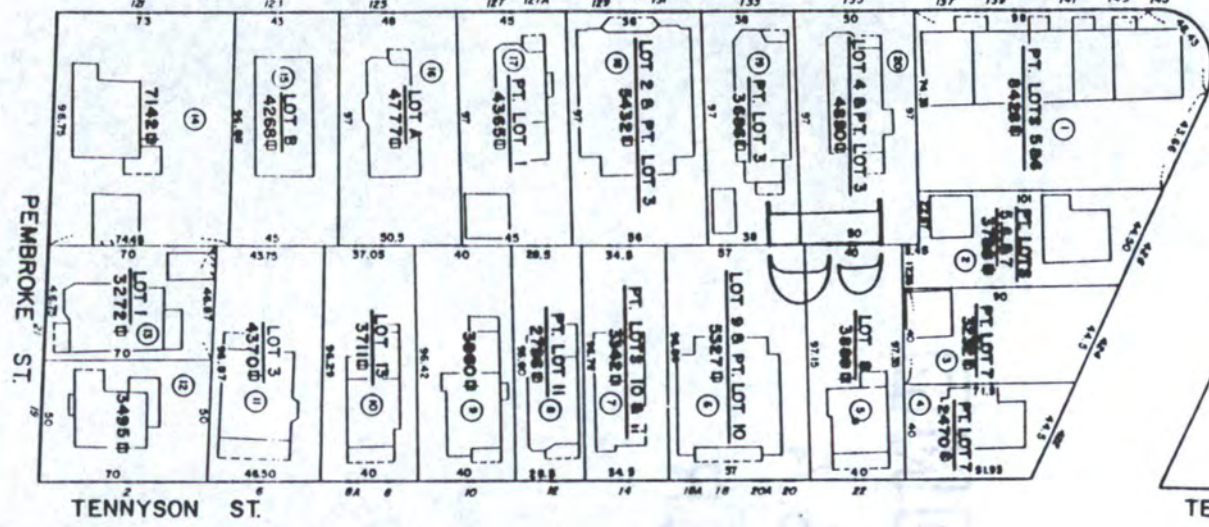
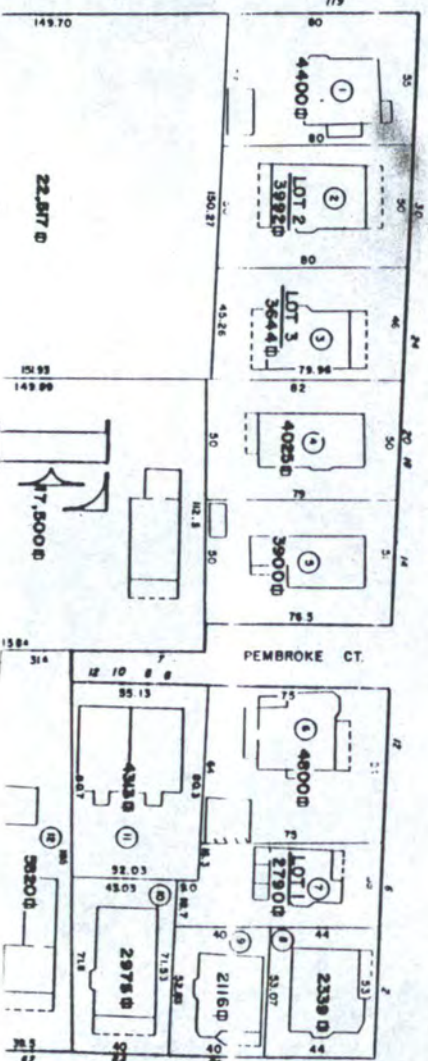
Oliver Tuffs House
78 Sycamore St.
Somerville (WRA), Mass.

CENTRAL ST.

PEMBROKE ST.

SYCAMORE ST.

RICHDALE AVE.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 4 1989

National 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

71. Tufts, Peter and Oliver, House
Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

72. Warren, H., House
Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

73. West Somerville Branch Library
Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

74. Williams, Charles, House
Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

75. Williams, Charles, Jr., House
Substantive Reviewfor Keeper Beth L. Savage 9-18-89

Attest _____

76. Williams, F.G., House
Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

77. Worthen, Daniel, House
Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

78. Wright House
Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 9/18/89

Attest _____

79. Wyatt, George, House
Substantive Reviewfor Keeper Beth L. Savage 9-18-89

Attest _____

80. Somerville Theatre

~~Entered in the
National Register~~
Substantive Review
Entered in the
National Registerfor Keeper Melvin Byrum 1/20/90

Attest _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Tufts, Peter and Oliver, 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: 89001287

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

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



78 Sycamore

1. 78 Sycamore Street
2. Somerville, MA
3. C. Zellie
4. 1980
5. Somerville City Hall
6. looking west
7. # 169

Tufts Peter + Oliver, Horse
Somerville MRA, Ma

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500253