

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	SMV.334
<b>Historic Name:</b>	
<b>Common Name:</b>	Downer, Cutler Double House
<b>Address:</b>	392-394 Broadway
<b>City/Town:</b>	Somerville
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	Winter Hill
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	C 1874
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Second Empire
<b>Use(s):</b>	Multiple Family Dwelling House
<b>Significance:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area(s):</b>	SMV.BA: Somerville Single Building Local Historic District
<b>Designation(s):</b>	Local Historic District (10/31/1989)



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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Tuesday, August 02, 2011 at 2:27: PM

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
80 BOYLSTON STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02116

Pt. WINTER  
US. BOSTON  
SECT A  
LHD-10/31/89  
(all three)

AREA

Winter Hill

FORM NO.

334



SOMERVILLE

SS 392-394, 396-398, 400 Broadwa

ric Name Cutler Downer (develope

1023

1024

Present residential

Original residential

OPTION

ca. 1874

maps/ directories

Second Empire

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard, syntheti  
siding, asphalt brick

Outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates)

synthetic sidings

Condition fair

Moved Date

Acreage 6400 + 6390 + 5638 sq. ft.

Setting Three building on the southeas  
corner of Broadway and Central, on  
heavily travelled route undergoing  
constant change, residential & comme

Carole Zellie - 1980

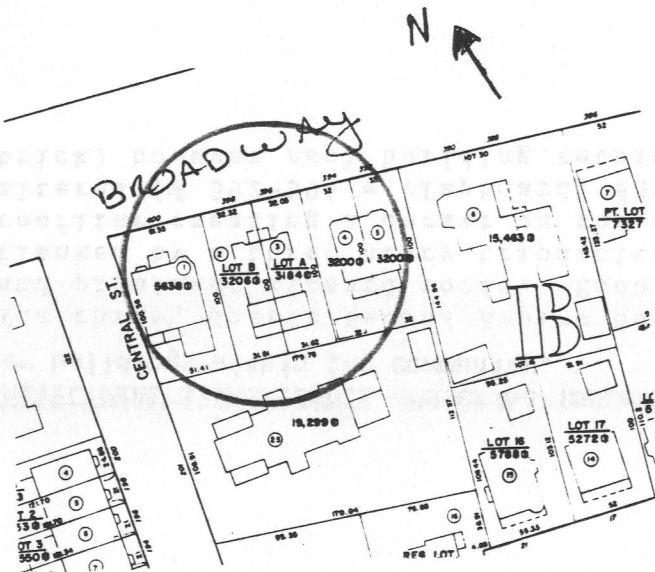
Recorded by Gretchen Schuler - 1988

Somerville Historic

Organization Preservation Commission

Date May, 1988

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



UTM REFERENCE

USGS QUADRANGLE

SCALE

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

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

The three, double Second Empire houses have similar plans, exterior facades and prominent mansard roofs. Each has a center entrance of two doors flanked by a three story tripartite bay which is carried through the roofline creating a dormer on the double houses. The siding has been altered (# 392-394 = clapboard, #396-398 = synthetic siding, #400= asphalt brick) however each building retains the brackets and dentil details.

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

Much of Broadway developed after the Civil War and many of the substantial homes, belonging to locally prominent businessmen, were in the Second Empire Style. From many of these houses, sited on natural summits, one enjoyed vistas of Charlestown and the Mystic River. Local industry and workers' housing was confined to areas north of Broadway in the Ten Hills area. Most of the large Broadway homes were owned by the occupants, with the exception of some speculative development of which these three double mansard rowhouses are examples.

Cutler Downer, who lived at #170 Central Street and owned large tracts of land in the area, built these three houses. Subsequent owners and occupants had various jobs in Boston and Somerville. For example, Edward Waldron who lived at #396 Broadway was a general agent for the International Steamship Company in Boston.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES**

1. Atlas of Middlesex County, Somerville: 1874 ("Cutler Downer", all three), 1884 ("Sarah Lathrope", no name on two), 1895 ("Gustaf Lyon & Henry H. Upham, Edward Waldron, Martha Noyes")
2. City Directories, 1870s-1890s.
3. City of Somerville, Beyond the Neck: The Architecture and Development of Somerville, Massachusetts, 1983.
4. Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County: Book                      Page                      .