

FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 250 WILSTON STREET
 BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA

FORM NO.

Davis
 Square

204



SOMERVILLE

30 Day Street

Historic Name Eliza C. Stebbins (owner)

Mrs. Samuel Davids (boarder)

Present residential

Original residential

DESCRIPTION

1878 ca 1870 (on 1874 map)

map research / deeds

Mansard Cottage

Architect

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboard

Outbuildings

Major Alterations (with dates)

Condition very good

Moved Date

Acreage 10,064 sq. ft.

Setting East side of residential

street with mixed architectural sty

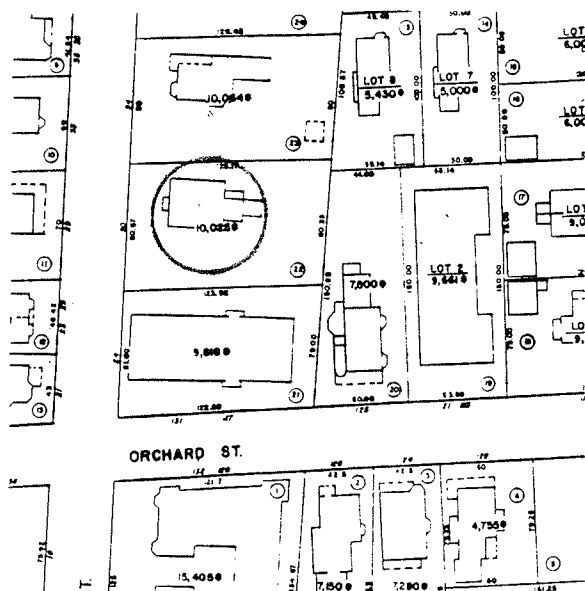
near Davis Square commercial area.

Recorded by Gretchen Schuler - 1988
Carol Zellie - 1980

Organization Somerville Historic
Preservation Commission

Date March, 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



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 one and one-half story cottage with a mansard roof is a well-conserved example of a popular building form used in the Davis Square area in the late 1800s, however, only a few good examples remain. Architectural details that remain on the three bay mansard include paired brackets, projecting window lintels, the pedimented dormers, and the projecting open entrance porch with arched brackets and a double entrance door.

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

This property has one of the largest building lots in the area and has not been subdivided since the 1870s when Ralph Day (of the same family after whom Day Street is named) sold the large 10,000 square foot lot to Eliza Stebbins, wife of Rufus Stebbins, both of Newton County.

The house is representative of a popular building style for modest single family dwellings built in the Davis Square area in the late 1800s. This building is among the few well-conserved examples of the mansard cottages. There are two other fine examples on this portion of Day Street. Adjacent lots have been developed with early 20th century apartment houses although there are other substantial single family dwellings on surrounding blocks of the residential neighborhood.

Much of the Davis Square area became the homes of railroad and streetcar commuters and is evidence of the suburban building boom of the late 19th century. Streetcar service along near by Massachusetts Avenue to Porter Square and to Davis Square provided easy access to Boston and Cambridge for employment. Nathaniel Stebbins who is listed as living here throughout the 1880s and 1890s worked in Boston.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

1. Atlas of Middlesex County, Somerville: 1874 ("R. Day", no building), 1884 ("Stebbins"), 1895 ("Eliza C. Stebbins").
2. Directories: 1873-1890s.
3. Registry of Deeds, Middlesex County: Book 1475, Page 275; Book 2032, Page 55.