

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	SMV.737
Historic Name:	
Common Name:	
Address:	315-321A Broadway
City/Town:	Somerville
Village/Neighborhood:	Ten Hills
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Classical Revival
Use(s):	Barber Shop Or Hair Salon; Business Office; Clubhouse; Commercial Block; Market or Grocery Store; Speciality store
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	



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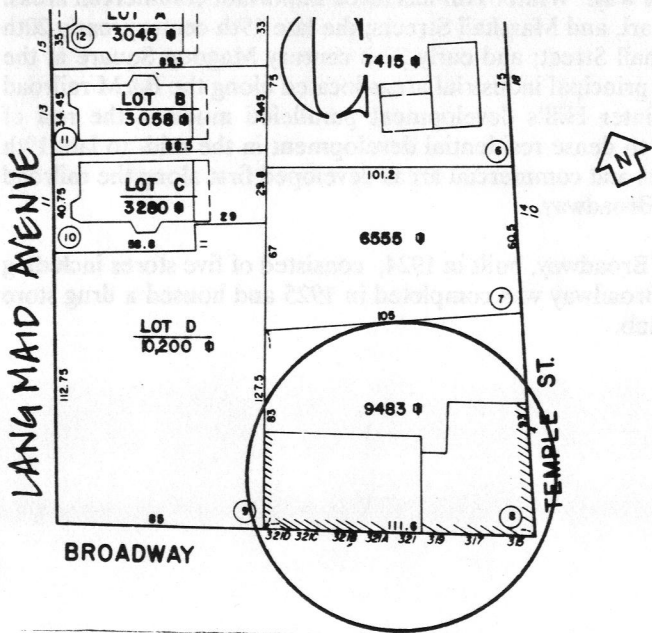
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
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MAP



UTM Reference _____

USGS Quadrangle _____

Scale _____

AREA WINTER HILL FORM NO. 737

Town Somerville

Address 315-319, 321A Broadway

Historic Name _____

Use: Present Commercial

Original Commercial

DESCRIPTION

Date 1925

Source Buildings

Style Classical Revival

Architect None

Exterior Wall Fabric Brick

Outbuildings None

Major Alterations (Dates) See

reverse

Condition Good

Moved No Date _____

Acreage 9,483 sq. ft.

Setting Urban commercial area

on main street

Recorded By Fitch/Hollister, The

Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.

Organization Somerville Historic

Preservation Commission

Date May 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT

SMV.737

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

No. 315-319, 321 Broadway is a two-story, brick commercial block with offices on the second floor. The building was built in two parts in 1924 and 1925, and the block steps down in height slightly between the two parts. The western portion of the building was constructed first and has a copper clad parapet and ca. 1960 rectangular 1/1 double-hung windows, with concrete sills, and quoins. The second half of the building is detailed similarly with a bevelled corner, copper clad parapet with stepped rounded pediment with embossed date "1925", ca. 1960 rectangular 1/1 double-hung windows with concrete sills, and quoins.

Storefronts:

All storefronts have a continuous concrete store cornice and plain pilasters which divide the facade into regular bays. Storefronts have been altered with some ca. 1950 and more recent vintage storefronts. However, most have retained original proportions and recessed entrances. Each section has a round arch entrance to the upper floors; the western entrance has the date "1924" in its entablature and a false iron balcony above.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Winter Hill section of Somerville is located in the north central section of the city and takes its name from one of the seven glacial drumlins that give Somerville its rugged topography. The main thoroughfares through Winter Hill are Broadway, a 17th century road which connected Charlestown to points west, and Medford Street, an early 19th century north/south road located along the 1835 Boston & Lowell (now Boston & Maine) railroad right of way. Winter Hill has three important commercial areas: the mid-19th century Gilman Square at the intersection of Medford, Pearl, and Marshall Streets; the late 19th century/early 20th century Winter Hill section at the intersection of Broadway and Marshall Street; and early 20th century Magoun Square at the intersection of Medford Street and Broadway. Winter Hill also has two principal industrial areas located along the B&M railroad right-of-way in the valley between Central Hill and Winter Hill. Winter Hill's development paralleled much of the rest of Somerville's growth: 17th and early 18th century farmsteads giving way to dense residential development in the mid- to late 19th century. With the advent of the railroad in the 1840s and 1850s, factories and commercial areas developed first along the railroad and later along streetcar lines located on main thoroughfares such as Broadway.

This commercial block was built in two parts in 1924 and 1925. No. 321 Broadway, built in 1924, consisted of five stores including a hardware store, market, A&P Co., and a delicatessen. No. 315-319 Broadway was completed in 1925 and housed a drug store and barber shop as well as offices for a contractor and the Hilldale Club.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Somerville City Directories
Hopkins Map, 1874
Hopkins Map, 1884
Sanborn Map, 1900
Sanborn Map, 1900 - Updated to 1931
Sanborn Map, 1933/34 - Updated to 1950