



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
JOSEPH A. CURTATONE
MAYOR

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

May 18, 2016

Daniel & Amanda Caspariello
c/o Richard Di Girolamo
424 Broadway
Somerville, MA 02145

2016 MAY 19 A 10:59
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

**Re: HPC 2016.007 - Demolition of the house
at 17 Porter Street**

**Determined Significant: 3/15/2016
Determined Preferably Preserved: 5/17/2016**

Dear Mr. & Ms. Caspariello,

At the public hearing on Tuesday, May 17, 2016 the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to determine 17 Porter Street 'Preferably Preserved.' Per Section 4.2.D of the Demolition Review Ordinance 2003-05, "If the Commission determines that the demolition of the significant building or structure would be detrimental to the architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social heritage of the City, such building or structure shall be considered a Preferably Preserved building or structure." The Commission found demolition detrimental due to the relationship of the building to the neighborhood. It is very much a part of the associated streetscape and its removal would alter the relationship of all the other buildings on the street. This type of residential dwelling is characteristic some parts of the City. Of special note are the consistent form and massing, size, date of construction, and its association as an intact example of working class housing, and as part of a late-nineteenth century streetscape therefore, it is in the best interest of the public to preserve or rehabilitate 17 Porter Street.

The Commission determined that this structure is Significant due to a historical association with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its architectural association within the streetscape, and the cultural and social history of the City due to its association with Italian immigration patterns in the twentieth century.

Significance is also due to the ability of the subject parcel to convey integrity regarding location and form as well as, to a moderate degree, design. The additional information provided and consideration criteria (a-e) show that while this general type of dwelling is common in many neighborhoods throughout the City, it is very much a part of the associated streetscape. Therefore, Staff finds the potential demolition of 17 Porter Street detrimental to the heritage of the City.

The location of the building in the center of the neighborhood is the key to perception and integrity of the district. Any alteration of massing and form will distort the proportions of the remaining buildings on the street.



Case: HPC 2016.007 – 17 Porter Street

Upon a determination of Preferably Preserved, in accordance with Section 4.5, “the Building Inspector may issue a demolition permit at anytime, upon receipt of written advice from the Commission that there is no reasonable likelihood that either the owner or some other person or group is willing to purchase, preserve, rehabilitate or restore such building or structure.”

With this determination, the 9-month demolition delay period commenced on May 18, 2016. During this 9-month period, the Applicant and/or Agents thereof are *required* to meet with members of the Commission and Preservation Staff to work through alternatives to demolition and/or work on redevelopment proposals. Please contact the Preservation Staff through the Planning Office to commit to these meetings. These meetings occur the first Thursday evening of every month.

Please contact me at (617) 625-6600 x 2525 with questions regarding this determination or if there is interest in participating in the Public Meetings.

Sincerely,



Kristenna P. Chase
Preservation Planner, Planning Division
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development

Cc: Paul Nonni, Sr. Building Inspector, Inspectional Services Division
George Proakis, Director, Planning Division
Hans Jensen, Zoning Review Planner
John Long, City Clerk