



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

March 16, 2016

Daniel A & Amanda A. Caspariello
88 Bay State Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA
2016 MAR 17 A 10:58

**Re: Demolition of the house
at 17 Porter Street**

Determined Significant: 3/16/2016

Dear Mr. & Ms. Caspariello,

On Tuesday, March 15, 2016, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to determine the c. 1889 single-family dwelling at 17 Porter Street 'Significant' because the building, per Section 2.17.B of the Demolition Review Ordinance 2003-05, is "at least 50 years old, and is or has been determined by the Commission to be a significant building or structure after a finding that the building or structure is either:

- i. "Importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or
- ii. "Historically or architecturally significant (in terms of period, style, method of building construction, or association with a reputed architect or builder) either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures, and therefore it is in the public interest to be preserved or rehabilitated rather than to be demolished."

The structure was determined 'Significant' due to an association of the property with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its association with workers and the Middlesex Bleachery, as well as the early development by George Brastow of Spring Hill, and John Nichols, Boston wharfinger.

The Commission also found the subject building historically and architecturally significant due to its integrity as a workers cottage, which is clearly visible in its scale, massing, form, and its association with the Middlesex Bleachery, John Nichols, and the Brastow development.

The period of significance for 23 Cleveland Street begins circa 1870 with its construction on the Brastow development for workers housing on land owned by John Nichols and continues into the present day as the use of this structure remains consistent.



The Commission will hold a public hearing on July 21, 2015 to review the initial determination of 'Significance' and if the building should be 'Preferably Preserved.' Per Section 4.2.D, "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 preferably preserved." Public testimony will be taken at the hearing, followed by a discussion and a vote by the Commission.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at (617) 625-6600 x 2534.

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
J. Brandon Wilson, Executive Director, Historic Preservation Commission
John Long, City Clerk