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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

April 27, 2016

Maria & Francisco Valente
201 Norfolk Street
Cambridge, MA 02139

**Re: Demolition of the house
at 36 Horace Street**

Determined Significant: 4/26/2016

Dear Ms. & Mr. Valente,

On Tuesday, April 26, 2016, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to determine the c. 1874 single-family dwelling at 36 Horace 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."

36 Horace Street is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its association with the meat packing industries of the last half of the 19th and early 20th centuries. Somerville and Cambridge were at one time among the largest of the meat packing centers in the US. Horace Street along with South, Ward and Medford Streets retain a strong association with the photographer Lewis Hine and his photographs of the exploitation of child labor in the 1908.

36 Horace Street retains a number of qualities that continue to convey both historic and architectural significance, such as the location of the structure on the lot and the spatial relationships between the subject dwelling and other dwellings along Horace Street. Other qualities that convey significance include the original form and massing, fenestration pattern for various façades, and the side-hall interior plan, which is understood from the exterior.



The building on its own encompasses the humble nature of the inhabitants over time but does not tell a specific story when taken out of its context of other similar houses set in a 19th century industrial area. These buildings demonstrate the conditions of those working and living near the slaughter houses.

The period of significance for 36 Horace Street begins before 1874 as workers housing for the meat packing industry and continues through the present as workers housing. Its significance continues into the present day as the use of this structure remains constant throughout its existence.

The Commission will hold a public hearing on May 17, 2016 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