



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

Sing Cheung
88 Dover Street
Somerville, MA 02144

**Re: Demolition of the Accessory Building
at 88 Dover Street**

Determined Significant: 5/17/2016

2016 MAY 19 A 10:55
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

Dear Mr. Cheung,

On Tuesday, May 17, 2016, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (6-0) to determine the c. 11924 accessory building at 88 Dover 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 subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, and social history of the City as an accessory structure typical of workshops that were once common in backyards throughout the city to support small business owners and for David Gaddis participation in the early 20th century labor movement. The building is a remnant of the pre-automotive age constructed for a dying use within city limits.

The subject building is found historically significant due to the location of the building within a context of structures which, together, create a setting that reflects the character of the place in which the subject building played a historical role, i.e. the suburbanization of West Somerville. The subject building is found architecturally significant due to the ability of the subject parcel to convey significance regarding location, form, and massing as well as integrity of design.



The period of significance for 88 Dover Street workshop begins at the time of construction, c. 1924, as West Somerville was largely developed for commuter housing. This period of significance follows the transition from horse to automobile as a major mode of transportation in the third decade of the twentieth century.

This building illustrates characteristics of a utilitarian wood frame workshop. The building is located within a context of buildings or structures which, together, create a setting that reflects the character of the place in which the subject building played a historical role, i.e. the modernization of West Somerville.

Qualities that continue to convey significance include the location of the building on the parcel and the spatial relationship to other buildings along Dover Street. The building retains integrity of design through its form and massing. Utilitarian workshops were commonly of the most simple form and design. The stylistic flourishes of contemporary 1920s design were generally eschewed in favor of functionality and cost.

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