



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE STAFF REPORT

Site:	47 Hunting Street
Case:	HPC 2013.070
Applicant Name:	James McSweeney
Date of Application:	09/26/2013
Recommendation:	NOT Significant
Hearing Date:	October 15, 2013

I. Historical Association

Architectural Description:

The subject property, c.1874, is a 2½ story two-family dwelling that is three bays wide with a right side-hall interior plan, a number of additions, vinyl siding, and replacement windows and doors. The structure has a two-story rear ell with multiple additions, an enclosed left side porch, and one chimney located in the center of the rear massing. The style of this dwelling is unknown due to the replacement materials and modified fenestration pattern but, due to the date of construction, may represent the Italianate style.



Front, left and right side façades of 47 Hunting Street, photos 2013

Historical Description:

Hunting Street is not listed in the 1869 directory; however, O. Martin is illustrated as the owner on the 1874 Hopkins Map (Plate F). Owen Martin is listed in the 1869 and 1873 directories as a laborer with a house on Milk near the Fitchburg Railroad, but an Owen Martin is also listed in the 1873 directory as residing at the corner of Hunting and South streets. Martin is located here through the 1881 directory. While the 1884 Hopkins map (Plate 7) does not list a property owner, the 1884 directory states Bridget Martin, widow of Owen, continues to reside at the same location and she is illustrated as the property owner on the 1895 Stadly map. This parcel does not surface again in directories until 1919 when Antony Rineri and Andrew Bonanno are listed in the reverse directory as residing at this location; however, neither name is listed within the main directory. The 1927 directory lists Antonio Rainerrri, a laborer, but there is no mention of an Andrew Bonanno. Both are listed again in 1933; Rainerrri is listed as a candymaker while Bonanno is listed as a laborer. 1940 lists Liberace Espedito, a truckdriver, and Joseph Adario, employed at Venice Laundry Inc., in addition to Bonanno. The Adario (also spelled Andario) and Bonanno families are listed at this address through 1960, but in 1965 the only family that remains is the Adario family. A 1952 building permit to Bonanno is for new shingles and windows as well as rear and side entrances, and another rear entrance. A second building permit, given to J. Adario in 1979, is for the installation of vinyl siding.

Context/Evolution:

The building first appears on the 1874 Hopkins Map (Plate F) as a simple square dwelling in the present location near the intersection of Hunting and South streets. The 1884 Hopkins Map (Plate 7) illustrates a rear addition and barn attached to the left rear of the dwelling. The 1895 Stadly map continues to illustrate the same footprint, but the dwelling appears to be more unified. The 1900 Sanborn map (Sheet 107) illustrates the same footprint, listing the main and rear massing as each two stories, and there does not appear to be a left side enclosed porch. This is consistent through the 1950 Sanborn map.

A majority of the surrounding parcels do not appear to be developed until later, according to map research. However, the structure at the south corner of Hunting and South streets as well as the green structure across Hunting Street appears on the 1874 Hopkins Map. The 1895 Stadly map illustrates that the neighborhood has begun to be built up but not until the 1900 Sanborn map do a majority of the existing buildings appear; however, there are several buildings that have been demolished such as at the north corner of Hunting and South streets and a mixed use building to the left of the subject building, and this area illustrates a variety of infill structures with varying uses.



47 Hunting Street, 1884 Hopkins map, Plate 7

Summary:

The building style is unknown due to the extent of replacement materials and additions that have been added over the years as well as the altered fenestration pattern; however, due to the date of construction the dwelling is possibly of the Italianate style. According to map research, the larger neighborhood seems to have infilled slowly throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, which is a mixed use and fairly industrial area. Due to the manner in which this neighborhood has developed, the residential component of the area does not appear very cohesive as it has been subject to a variety of infill buildings and uses during the 19th and 20th centuries.



47 Hunting Street, aerial view

Findings on Historical Association

*For a Determination of Significance, the subject building must be found either (a) **importantly associated with people, events or history** or (b) historically or architecturally significant (Ordinance 2003-05, Section 2.17.B). Findings for (b) can be found at the end of the next section.*

(a) In accordance with the historic information obtained from *Findings on Historical Association*, which utilizes historic maps/atlasses, City reports and directories, and building permit research, and through an examination of resources that document the history of the City, such as *Somerville Past and Present*, Staff **do not** find 47 Hunting Street to be 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.

II. Historical and Architectural Significance

The findings for historical and/or architectural significance of a historic property address the period, style, method of building construction and association with a reputed architect or builder of the subject property, either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures (Ordinance 2003-05, Section 2.17.B).

The period of significance for 47 Hunting Street begins at the time of construction, c.1874, as this area developed with a mix of uses which includes industry and working class housing. This period of significance extends into the twentieth century as this building, in the context of the neighborhood, continues to illustrate a mix of industrial and residential uses.

Integrity

The National Park Service identifies historic integrity as the ability of a property to convey significance. A property should possess sufficient integrity to convey, represent or contain the values and qualities for which it is judged significant; therefore, the following is an identification and evaluation of these qualities and alterations as they affect the ability of the subject property to convey significance.

- a. **Location:** The location of the subject two-family dwelling is along the right side lot line of a square-shaped lot. While this location has not been altered, several rear additions and enclosed porches have been added to this structure.
- b. **Design:** The current design of the building illustrates three bays in width with a right side-hall entry interior plan. The fenestration of most of the façades has been altered, including the front façade; however, the general intent of design can still be inferred on the main massing. The left side façade implies the main building two rooms deep, but due to alterations in the fenestration pattern, there is much that cannot be determined without further investigation. While the dwelling is clad in vinyl with replacement windows and doors, due to the construction date, the dwelling is likely of the Italianate style.
- c. **Materials:** The materials that compose this dwelling represent preferences of those who created the dwelling as well as later owners and occupants. While a majority of the material is wood, later materials added include vinyl siding, replacement windows and doors, and asphalt shingles. However, more original materials and features could remain beneath the current siding or within the 19th century rear additions.
- d. **Alterations:** The structure has been heavily altered both through materials and fenestration pattern as well as through additions to the rear and left side façades. While some of these additions have developed significance due to their date of construction, many of these additions have also been heavily altered over the years, which have reduced their integrity.

Evaluation of Integrity:

Alterations, such as replacement windows and doors, siding, and asphalt shingles, have modified the exterior appearance of this dwelling over the years. While a number of additions have also masked the original structure, the original gable-end form and massing can still be identified.

Qualities that continue to convey significance are minimal, but include the location of the building on the parcel, the original gable-end form, and right side-hall interior plan. Spatial

relationships to other buildings along Hunting Street are compatible with this structure but are predominantly from a later historical context.

Findings for Historical and Architectural Significance

*For a Determination of Significance, the subject building must be found either (A) importantly associated with people, events or history or (b) **historically or architecturally significant** (Ordinance 2003-05, Section 2.17.B). Findings for (a) can be found at the end of the previous section.*

(b) In accordance with the *Finding on Historical and Architectural Significance*, which addresses period, style, method of building construction, and association with a reputed architect or builder, either by itself or in the context of a group of buildings or structures, as well as integrity, which assess the ability of the property to convey significance, Staff do not find 47 Hunting Street historically or architecturally significant.

III. Recommendation

Recommendations are based upon an analysis by Historic Preservation Staff of the permit application and the required findings for the Demolition Review Ordinance, which requires archival and historical research, and an assessment of historical and architectural significance, conducted prior to the public meeting for a Determination of Significance. This report may be revised or updated with a new recommendation and/or findings based upon additional information provided to Staff or through further research.

For a Determination of Significance, the structure must be either (A) listed on the National Register or (B) at least 50 years old.

(A) The structure is NOT listed on or within an area listed on the National Register of Historic Places, nor is the structure the subject of a pending application for listing on the National Register.

OR

(B) The structure, circa 1874, is at least 50 years old.

AND

*For a Determination of Significance under (B), the subject building must be found either (a) importantly associated with people, events or history or (b) **historically or architecturally significant**.*

(a) In accordance with the *Findings on Historical Association*, which utilizes historic maps/atlas, City reports and directories, and building permit research, and through an examination of resources that document the history of the City, **Staff recommend that the Historic Preservation Commission do not find 47 Hunting Street 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.**

OR

[illegible]

47 Hunting Street