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

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

May 24, 2012

Cindy He
12 Thorndike Street
Somerville, MA 02144

Re: HPC 12.056 – 336 Summer Street, Somerville, MA

Dear Ms. He,

On Tuesday, May 15, 2012, the Somerville Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to make the initial determination that the two-family residence at 336 Summer Street is “significant” “significant” as set forth in City of Somerville Ordinance Chapter 7 Article II Section 7-28 b (2). This was because the building was “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.”*

Specifically, the significance of the building is a good example of a gable-front end house that retains its basic form, bays, and cornice returns. Your building retains the massing and form characteristic of the neighborhood. The iteration and repetition of the roof lines and the eave returns form the rhythm of the streetscape. The Commission was particularly interested that those aspects of the building be retained.

The Commission will be holding a public hearing on Tuesday, June 19, 2012 to review the SHPC’s initial determination of “significance” and whether the building should be “preferably preserved” as per section 7-28 b (2) “that it is in the public interest to be preserved or rehabilitated rather than to be demolished.” As part of the hearing, the Commission would particularly like to hear about your plans for the site and the reasons for your proposed demolition.

While the ordinance requires the Applicant to submit photos and building descriptions, these materials have been prepared by the HPC Staff to aid in the initial determination of ‘significance.’

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