



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

STAFF PRESENT
AMIE HAYES, PLANNER

MEMBERS PRESENT
JILLIAN ADAMS
ALAN BINGHAM

Public Meeting for Preferably Preserved Structures
Recommendations and Minutes

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held a public meeting at **6:30 p.m.** on **Thursday, December 5, 2013**, in City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA.

The purpose of the meeting was to seek alternatives to demolition for structures determined by the Historic Preservation Commission to be Preferably Preserved and to make recommendations to the Historic Preservation Commission at a future Commission meeting on the following Preferably Preserved structure(s):

6:30 PM to 7:00 PM

53 Kent Street *Case HPC 2013.048*

Delay Period Ends: 6/17/2014

Building Description: c. 1850 workers cottage, single-family dwelling

Significance: The structure is "Significant" due to the remaining historical integrity, the retention of several architectural details that continue to illustrate the Greek Revival style, as an example of working class housing specifically associated with the Middlesex Bleachery, and as part of an early to mid nineteenth century collection of housing associated with the early development and industry of Somerville.

The structure is "Preferably Preserved" due to the level of integrity, association with the Middlesex Bleachery, as an intact example of working class housing, and as part of a mid 19th century collection of buildings.

This was the first time for this case to come to a Public Meeting for Preferably Preserved Structures. The Agent explained the intent is to construct 4 residential units and retaining the building on-site is not an option. The Applicant is willing to wait out the remainder of the demolition delay, but would allow a second party to purchase and relocate the historic structure. The Applicant may also be open to documenting the building if this is sufficient negotiation for the HPC to lift the delay. The Commissioners would prefer the building be relocated to an appropriate site as the small form and massing could accommodate this type of opportunity. The house could also be dismantled for reconstruction at a later date. Several suggestions to find an entity to relocate the historic structure were then discussed, such as the MA Historic ListServe, Tufts, a local historic district property, a living museum, advertizing in the Somerville News, and the creation of a real estate listing. Other ideas include investigating if city owned parcels could accommodate this structure as an accessory use, talking with the Housing Authority, creating a TIFF, and contacting other planning divisions and historic commissions. The cost of relocation and demolition would also need to be accurately determined as demolition costs could be used to reduce relocation costs. The Agent last inquired about a cut-off date, if no one comes forward to relocate the building. The Commissioners discussed that March would likely be an appropriate time as there would still be time to document the building, but requested that the Applicant work with the HPC if there is a viable solution that takes more time.

The meeting concluded at approximately 7:20 p.m.



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