



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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE STAFF REPORT

Site:	1006 Broadway
Case:	HPC 2019.029
Applicant Name:	Jilong Liu
Date of Application:	April 30, 2019
Recommendation:	Significant
Hearing Date:	May 21, 2019

I. Historical Association

Historical Context: Broadway is one of the oldest roads in Somerville running from the Charlestown neck to the Alewife Brook. The western section of Somerville beyond Winter Hill was largely farmland and clay pits until the last half of the 19th century.



The house at 1006 Broadway appears on the 1852 Draper map which is based upon an 1846 Survey, therefore it was constructed prior to 1850 when Jesse Simpson is noted in the 1850 agricultural schedule as owning 40 acres of improved land. He grew potatoes, hay and rye, and kept 7 milk cows. He also had 2 pigs and 3 horses. The 1850 Census also shows that he also had 2 laborers and another farmer living on his property. Along with the farm, Jesse Simpson also owned a gravel quarry. Jesse Simpson was on the Board of the Park Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Simpsons owned the property until the death of Margaret A. Simpson in 1916. During some of this time, farm laborers lived with the Simpsons. At other times there were borders. Subsequent tenants appear to have been predominantly renters according to the census. Margaret Simpson left a substantial amount of money to the Somerville Museum in her will, indicating deep connections with that institution.

Architectural Description: The house is a cross gable 2-story wood-framed house. It retains the massing and form shown in the earliest atlases with the exception of a single story front addition.



CITY HALL • 93 HIGHLAND AVENUE • SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS 02143
(617) 625-6600 EXT. 2500 • TTY: (617) 666-0001 • FAX: (617) 625-0722
www.somervillema.gov

Local lore has said that it was used as a hair salon. The building has vinyl siding and the fenestration was altered. A 2 car concrete block garage was erected c.1922.

Summary: 1006 Broadway is a rare pre-1852 house dating to the earliest days of the city. When the town of Somerville split off from Charlestown, the population was a mere 1013 people. Few buildings of this era still remain. 1006 Broadway was clearly a farmers' house. The architecture is simple. The Simpson family was prominent throughout the last half of the 19th and the early part of the 20th centuries.

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) are 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 find 1006 Broadway 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.

The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to the age of the building which retains its massing and form, its associations with the farming history of the city and its associations with the Simpson family.

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 1006 Broadway begins prior to 1846 when it is shown on the 1852 Draper Map.

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 building has not been moved. It is located on a major local arterial. It is currently hidden behind overgrown shrubs and trees rendering it mostly visible from Corinthian Avenue

- b. Design: The building is a basic cross-gable wood-framed structure c. 1850. Specifics of the original finishes and details are not visible from the street.
- c. Materials: The building is wood-framed with modern siding and windows applied.
- d. Alterations: Front addition circa 1958; other alterations circa 1989.

Evaluation of Integrity: The building strongly retains its original form. The 1950s addition to the front can easily be removed. Window and door locations and size can be returned to their original size using investigation of the structure and knowledge of the architecture of the mid-19th century.

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 find 1006 Broadway historically or architecturally significant.

The subject building is found historically and architecturally significant due to its period, style, method of building construction and associations with early Somerville.

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 1846, 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.

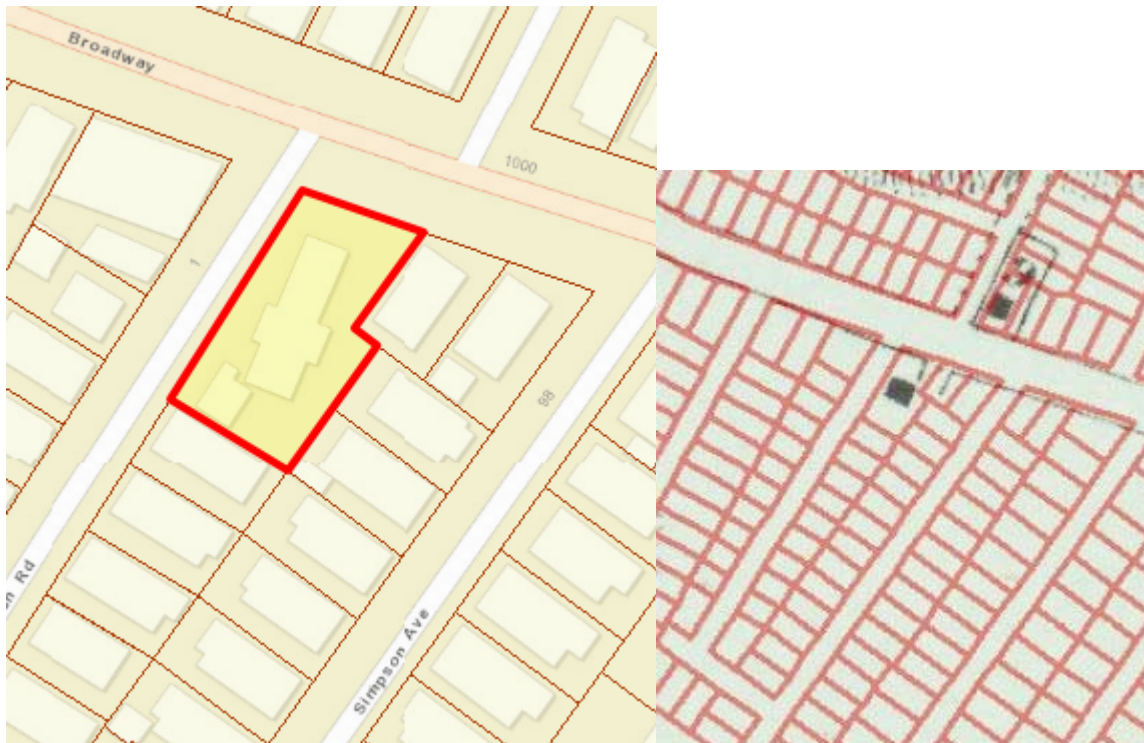
(a) In accordance with the *Findings on Historical Association*, which utilizes historic maps/atlasses, City reports and directories, and building permit research, and through an examination of resources that document the history of the City, **Staff recommend that the Historic Preservation Commission find 1006 Broadway 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.**

The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to the age of the building which retains its massing and form, its associations with the farming history of the city and its associations with the Simpson family.

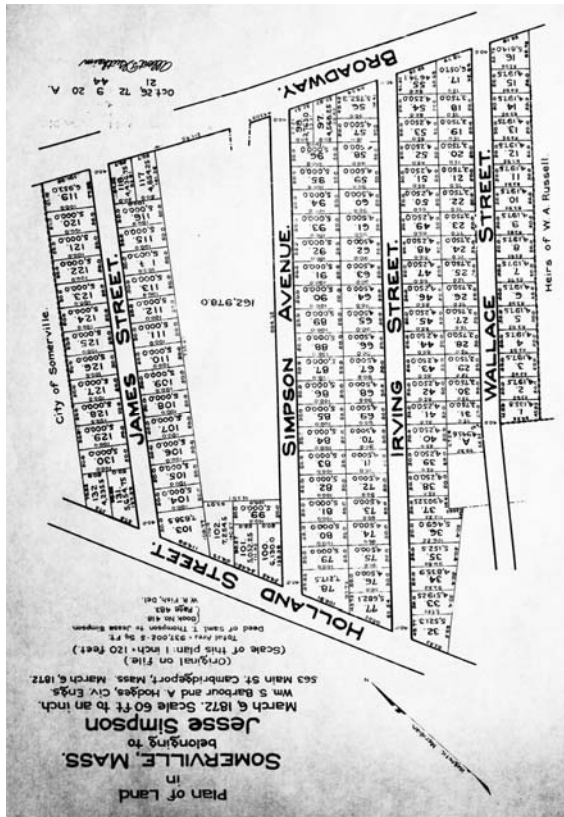
OR

(b) In accordance with the *Findings 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, the ability to convey significance, **Staff recommend that the Historic Preservation Commission find 1006 Broadway historically and architecturally significant.**

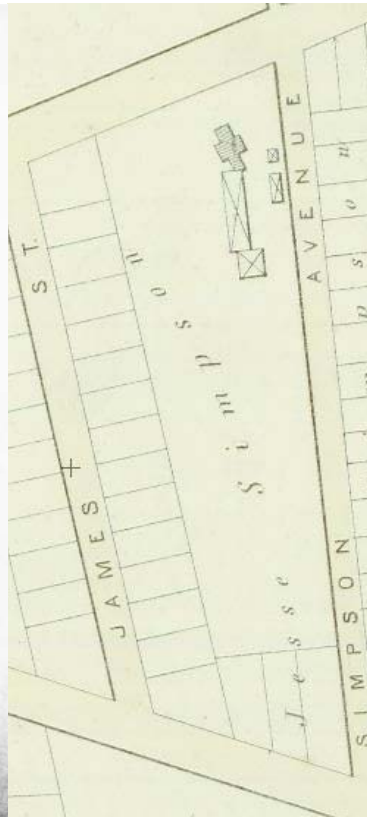
The subject building is found historically and architecturally significant due to its period, style, method of building construction and associations with early Somerville. It is a rare example of pre-1852 house dating to the earliest days of the city.



1852 Draper with current boundaries overlaid – House existent at this time.



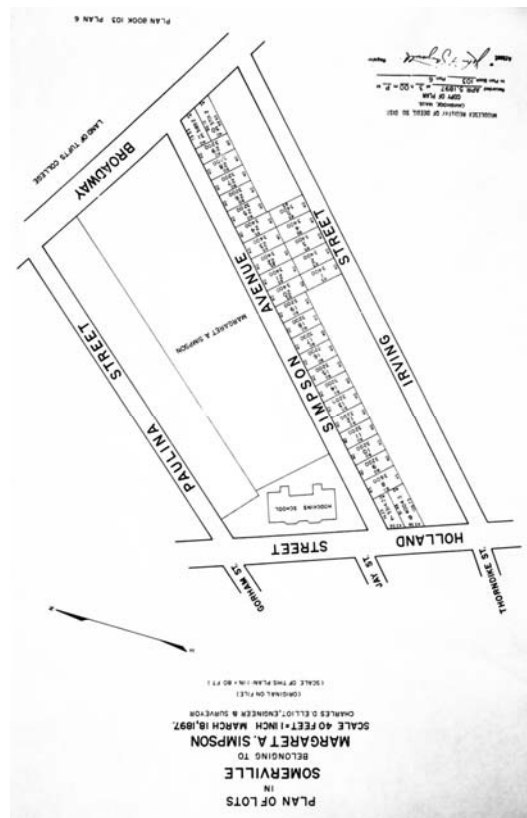
1872 Plan of land – Jesse Simpson



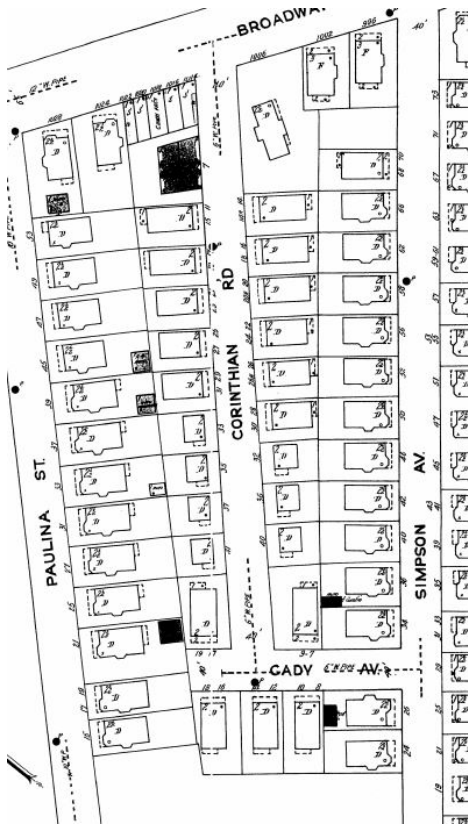
1874 Hopkins Plate 48-49



1895 Bromley Plate 20



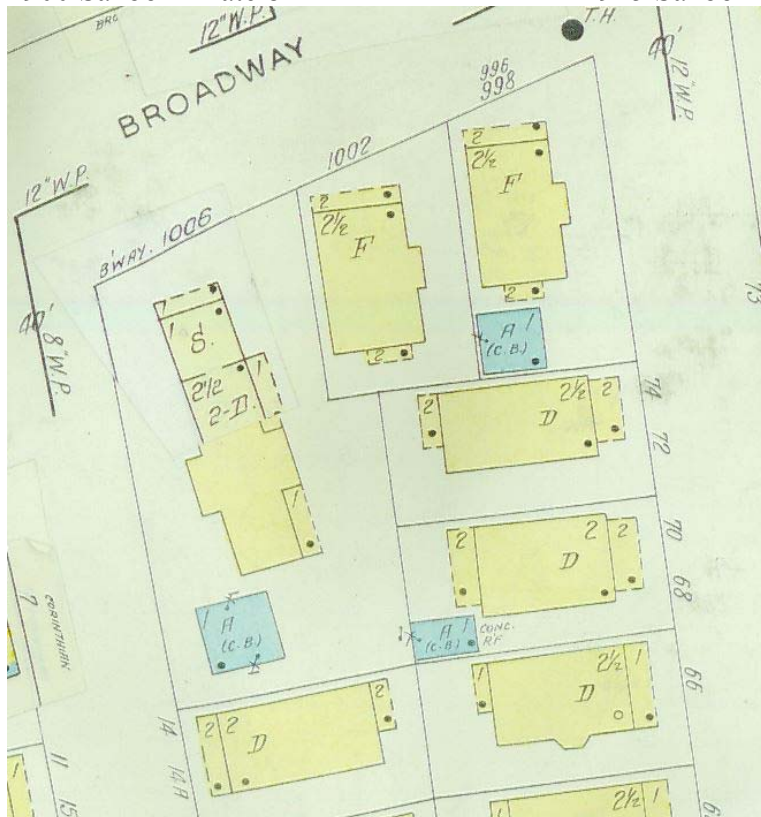
1897 Plan of Land



1900 Sanborn Plate 8



1925 Sanborn Plate 8



1958 Sanborn Plate 212

week ending Oct. 14, 1916, the number of deaths reported was 218, against 226 for the same period last year, with a rate of 14.95, against 15.21 last year. There were 34 deaths under one year of age, against 39 last year; and 65 deaths over 60 years of age, against 55 last year.

erville, Mass., who died on September 24, contains bequests of \$3000 each to the American Red Cross, the Boston Dispensary, and the Massachusetts General Hospital.

The will of the late Margaret A. Simpson of Somerville, Mass., who died on September 9,

Digitized b

Vol. CLXXV, No. 16] BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL

581

contains a bequest of \$15,000 to the Somerville Hospital, of which \$5000 is for a free bed and \$10,000 to constitute a trust fund, the income of which is to be used for the general purposes of the institution.

G. B. Shattuck.
H. F. Vickery.
D. H. Walker.
C. F. Withington.

David Harrower.
A. G. Hurd.
F. H. Washburn.
S. B. Woodward.
C. D. Wheeler.

WORCESTER,
G. O. Ward.
F. H. Baker.
Homer Gage.

WORCESTER NORTH,
E. L. Fiske.
A. P. Mason.

1916 reference to the the Will of Margaret A. Simpson

