



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

MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

November 14, 2018

American Legion Post 19 Somerville
124 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Sean O'Donovan
741 Broadway
Somerville, MA 02144

**Re: Demolition of the brick building
at 124 Highland Avenue**

Determined Significant: 11/13/2018

Sirs,

On Tuesday, November 13, 2018, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (5-0) to determine the c. 1931 brick building with later 1960s additions at 124 Highland Avenue '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 Commission found 124 Highland Avenue 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 American Legion Post 19, a chapter of a national veterans' organization.

The Commission also found 124 Highland Avenue historically significant due to on-going association with the American Legion Post 19 since 1919 and their role; and architecturally significant as a good example of 1930s Classical Revival style executed on a small scale.

The period of significance for 124 Highland Avenue begins before its construction in 1931 as headquarters for the American Legion Post 19. The Post 19 received its charter in 1919 and was based in the Community House at 124 Highland Avenue.

The Commission will hold a public hearing on December 18, 2018 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.

Please remit a check made out to the City of Somerville of \$135.00 to cover the cost of the Legal Notice of the Public Hearing for two weeks in the newspaper and given to Historic Preservation Staff. If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at (617) 625-6600 x 2525.

Sincerely,



Kristenna P. Chase
Preservation Planner, Planning Division
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development
City Hall
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

Cc: Paul Nonni, Sr. Building Inspector, Inspectional Services Division
George Proakis, Director, Planning Division
Hans Jensen, Zoning Review Planner
John Long, City Clerk