



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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE STAFF REPORT

Site:	15 MacArthur Street - Barn
Case:	HPC 2019.055
Applicant Name:	Sal Querusio
Date of Application:	August 7, 2019
Recommendation:	Significant
Hearing Date:	September 17, 2019

I. Historical Association

Historical Context: The wood barn at 15 Mac Arthur Street was constructed sometime before 1895 on land belonging to Hattie A. Simpson, wife of Charles R. Simpson. Arthur Street was renamed to MacArthur Street after World War II in honor of General MacArthur.

Charles R. Simpson was a veterinarian based in Charlestown. The Simpsons owned and lived at 15 Arthur Street from 1894 through 1914 at which point it was sold to Erwin F. Schroeder, also a veterinarian. City Directories list Ellsworth Pockett, Timothy Reardon and Chipman Sears as hostlers associated with the property. The 1905 and 1906 City Directories state that Charles R. Simpson owned 3 horses that were stabled there.

Erwin F. Schroeder went on to become a prominent veterinary surgeon and the head of the Angell Memorial Hospital through World War II. He patented a particular type of splint to stabilize animal's joints which is still in use today. He was also the subject of numerous articles in the Boston Globe highlighting the needs and abilities of his charges.

Lewis C. Tuttle and his wife were the next owners of 15 Arthur Street. He was a superintendent and foreman for one of the milk distribution companies that flourished in Somerville and Charlestown. The Tuttle's owned the property from 1919 to 1941.

Evolution of Site:



15 Arthur Street was platted before 1884 on land owned by Roberts and Ireland. In the 1950s, Route 28, McGrath Highway was enlarged with the demolition of the other side of the block and the next block over. This left the barn backing onto what is now five lanes of traffic.

Architectural Description: The circa 1895 1 ½ story gable end barn with a small cross gable on the left side for the hay loft door and hoist. Modern doors replace the wagon door centered on the side of the building toward the house. The end gables have double hung sash. The side of the building backing onto has also been altered.

Summary: The building proposed for demolition is a circa 1895 barn. Barns and carriage houses were once common throughout the city for people who had businesses that could not be easily dealt with using the extensive streetcar system. In this case the owners were veterinarians. Charles R. Simpson may have cared for animals in the barn along with housing horses in the building.

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 the barn at 15 MacArthur 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.

The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its use as a barn or carriage house and the pre-automotive era. It is also associated with Erwin F. Schroeder at the beginning of his career.

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 15 MacArthur Street circa 1895 with its construction as a barn or carriage house attached to the house at the same address.

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.
- b. Design: The building appears to be a basic gable end barn with hoist and hayloft on the upper floor. Barn door openings on the façade complete the building.
- c. Materials: The barn is constructed with wood.
- d. Alterations: Barn doors and windows were replaced or blocked between 2008 and 2019. It also has new siding.

Evaluation of Integrity: The building retains all the characteristics as a barn through its form, massing, and openings. There have been no major alterations beyond the replacement of the doors and windows. The barn is typical of its time and location.

Does the subject parcel represent an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or region due to its singular physical characteristics or landscape?

The building is extremely visible from McGrath Highway where it serves as a small landmark. The hayloft door is visible from MacArthur Street.

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 15 MacArthur Street Barn historically or architecturally significant.

The subject barn is found historically and architecturally significant due to its method of building construction and its association with pre-automotive 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.

The period of significance for 15 MacArthur Street circa 1895 with its construction as a barn or carriage house attached to the house at the same address.

(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 1895 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 find 9 Sunnyside Avenue Barn and**

Garage 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.

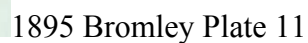
The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its use as a barn or carriage house and the pre- automotive era. It is also associated with Erwin F. Schroeder at the beginning of his career.

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 9 Sunnyside Avenue Barn and Garage historically and architecturally significant.**

The subject barn is found historically and architecturally significant due to its method of building construction and its association with pre-automotive Somerville.







15 MacArthur Street Photos 2008, 2019



15 MacArthur Street Photos 2008, 2019





15 MacArthur Street Photos 2008, 2019

Census #	LOCATION	OR	NAME	AGE	DATE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	IMMIGRATION YEAR	SOURCE	NOTES
	Platted land	O	Roberts & Ireland						1884 Hopkins Atlas Plate 2	
	15 Arthur Street		John M. Fitts			Country Store (Dorchester, NH)			1890 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		William A. Fraser			Milkman			1892 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Charles R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1894 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1894 City Directory	
		O	Hattie A. Simpson						1895 Bromley Atlas Plate 11	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson, DVS			Veterinarian, Hancock Square, Charlestown & 15 Arthur			1896 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian, Hancock Square, Charlestown & 15 Arthur			1898 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Ellsworth Pocknett			Hostler			1900 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1900 City Directory	
88/128	15 Arthur Street		Ruth J. Simpson (mother)	70			Massachusetts		1900 US Census	
88/128	15 Arthur Street	O	Charles R. Simpson (head)	40		Veterinary Surgeon	Missouri		1900 US Census	
88/128	15 Arthur Street		Hattie A. Simpson (wife)	36			Massachusetts		1900 US Census	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1901 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1902 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1903 City Directory	
			Charles R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1905 City Directory	owned 3 horses
	15 Arthur Street		Timothy Reardon			Hostler			1905 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Timothy Reardon			Hostler			1906 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1906 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Timothy Reardon			Hostler			1907 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1907 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Timothy Reardon			Hostler			1908 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1908 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Timothy Reardon			Hostler			1909 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1909 City Directory	
111/157	15 Arthur Street	O	Charles R. Simpson (head)	51		Veterinary Surgeon	Missouri		1910 US Census	
111/157	15 Arthur Street		Hattie A. Simpson (wife)	46			Massachusetts		1910 US Census	
111/158	15 Arthur Street		Maud E. Wood (wife)	25			Massachusetts		1910 US Census	
111/158	15 Arthur Street	R	Frank S. Wood (head)	23		Assistant Surgeon	Massachusetts		1910 US Census	
	15 Arthur Street		Chipman Sears			Hostler			1911 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1911 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Chipman Sears			Hostler			1912 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Charles R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1912 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1912 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Erwin F. Schroeder			Veterinarian			1913 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Charles R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1913 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1913 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Erwin F. Schroeder			Veterinarian			1914 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		C. R. Simpson			Veterinarian			1914 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street	O	Erwin F. Schroeder						1914? Deed	from Hattie A. Simpson et ux.
	15 Arthur Street	O	Erwin F. Schroeder & Armeta C. Schroeder						1915 Deed 3999/301	from Erwin F. Schroeder
	15 Arthur Street		Erwin F. Schroeder			Veterinarian			1916 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Erwin F. Schroeder			Veterinarian			1917 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Bernard B. Schroeder			Student			1917 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Erwin F. Schroeder			Veterinarian			1918 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Bernard B. Schroeder			Student			1918 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Erwin F. Schroeder			Veterinarian			1919 City Directory	

Census #	LOCATION	OR	NAME	AGE	DATE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	IMMIGRATION YEAR	SOURCE	NOTES
	15 Arthur Street	O	Lewis C. Tuttle & Jennie E. Tuttle						1919 Deed 4284/565	from Erwin F. Schroeder et ux
	15 Arthur Street		Lewis C. Tuttle			Superintendent			1920 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Jennie Tuttle			Wife of Lewis C. Tuttle			1920 City Directory	
128/234	15 Arthur Street		Charles Trescott (father in law)	67			Vermont		1920 US Census	
128/234	15 Arthur Street	O	Lewis Tuttle (head)	36		Superintendent, Milk Company	New Hampshire		1920 US Census	
128/234	15 Arthur Street		Mabel Cameron (boarder)	35		Nurse, General Practice	Massachusetts		1920 US Census	
128/234	15 Arthur Street		Jennie Tuttle (wife)	34			New Hampshire		1920 US Census	
128/234	15 Arthur Street		Lewis C. Tuttle (son)	9			Massachusetts		1920 US Census	
128/234	15 Arthur Street		Mildred E. Tuttle (daughter)	6			Massachusetts		1920 US Census	
	15 Arthur Street		Lewis C. Tuttle			Superintendent			1925 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Jennie Tuttle			Wife of Lewis C. Tuttle			1925 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Lewis C. Tuttle			Superintendent			1927 City Directry	
	15 Arthur Street		Jennie Tuttle			Wife of Lewis C. Tuttle			1927 City Directry	
	15 Arthur Street		Lewis C. Tuttle Jr.			Student, Tufts			1929 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Lewis C. Tuttle			Superintendent			1929 City Directory	
	15 Arthur Street		Jennie Tuttle			Wife of Lewis C. Tuttle			1929 City Directory	
114/151	15 Arthur Street	O	Lewis C. Tuttle (head)	46		Superintedent, Milk Plant	New Hampshire		1930 US Census	
114/151	15 Arthur Street		Jennie E. Tuttle (wife)	44			New Hampshire		1930 US Census	
114/151	15 Arthur Street		George Parker (boarder)	31		Auto Repair Mechanic	Massachusetts		1930 US Census	
114/151	15 Arthur Street		Lewis C. Tuttle (son)	19			Massachusetts		1930 US Census	
114/151	15 Arthur Street		Mildred E. Tuttle (daughter)	16			Massachusetts		1930 US Census	
93	15 Arthur Street	O	Lewis C. Tuttle (head)	56		Inspector, Milk Plant	New Hampshire		1940 US Census	
93	15 Arthur Street		Jennie E. Tuttle (wife)	54			New Hampshire		1940 US Census	
93	15 Arthur Street		Lewis C. Tuttle (son)	29		Chemist, Soap Factory	Massachusetts		1940 US Census	
	15 MacArthur Street	O	Beatrice M. Dyer						1941 Deed 6546/204-205	Tuttle
	15 MacArthur Street		Dyer						1955-1-205 Building Permit	Install doorway in existing bldg & use for storage
	15 MacArthur Street		Dyer						1956-1-81 Building Permit	Install 10' sash.
	15 MacArthur Street	O	Beatrice M. Dyer for life, then Patricia E. Kass, Margaret A. Dyer, Marie A. Poldian, Catherine M. Hill, William H.						1988 Deed 19378/142	Beatrice M. Dyer
	15 MacArthur Street	O	Joseph Mahan & Mary S. Mahan						1991 Deed 21031/218	from Patricia E. Kass, Margaret A. Dyer, Marie A. Poldian, & Catherine M. Hill
	15 MacArthur Street	O	Joseph Mahan & Mary S. Mahan						2004 Deed 41858/73	from Beatrice M. Dyer
	15 MacArthur Street	O	Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas						2006 Deed 49065/575	from Joseph Mahan
	15 MacArthur Street	O	Mario Sousa						2007 Deed 49633/156	from Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas
	15 MacArthur Street	O	15 MacArthur Street, LLC						2019 Deed 72960/287	from Mario Sousa

Plate 6

Schroeder-Thomas Splint

DESCRIPTION

The Schroeder-Thomas splint is a modification of the Thomas splint used to stabilize fractures in humans. Dr. **Erwin F. Schroeder**, a former staff member at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital, modified and adapted this splint for fracture repair in small animals. In the 1958 edition of *Canine Surgery* (Lacroix JV, Reiser WH. Fractures. In: Mayer K, Lacroix JV, Hoskins HP, eds. pp. 636–642. *Canine Surgery*, 4th ed. Santa Barbara: American Veterinary Publications.), the Schroeder-Thomas splint was called “one of the most widely used and adaptable splints for small animals,” permitting both traction and fixation of many types of fractures. A variety of angles can be bent into the aluminum bars to facilitate fracture alignment, depending on the nature and location of a fracture.

Proper design and application of this splint is now a lost art due to the advent of superior internal and external fixation techniques. However, the Schroeder-Thomas splint is occasionally very useful in immobilizing the forelimb and hind limb for problematic wound closures, especially those involving the elbow, fibular tarsal bone, and knee. It also can be used to immobilize grafts applied to the radial and ulna region or tibial region. Commercially available Schroeder-Thomas splints are inferior to manually creating a splint specifically crafted to conform more exactly to the shape of the patient's extremity. Construction of the splint does require more time and patience compared to other bandage and splinting techniques used to protect problematic wound closures in small animals.

DELICATE OPERATION SAVES LEG OF DOG HURT BY AUTO

Puppy Is Now Able to Walk Under Own Power After Injury That Once Seemed Hopeless



AFTER THREE MONTHS HE WALKS WHOLE

Peter, the Schipperke puppy owned by George S. Burgess, is seen with Russell Marena, an attendant at the Angell Memorial Hospital.

His cure required three months, great care and skill and the taking of a long chance, but Peter, an 18-months-old puppy dog whose leg was broken in an automobile accident, was able to walk out of the Angell Animal Hospital of the M. S. P. C. A. yesterday under his own power.

Peter is a Schipperke, a species developed as a watch dog on Dutch canal boats. His owner is George S. Burgess of 53 Hundred circle, Wellesley Hills. When he was brought into the hospital, a little more than three months ago, his case looked hopeless.

Doctor Drains Wound

He had compound fractures of both the tibia and the fibula, which are, respectively, the large and small bones of the lower legs; the wound was infected and, in spite of all efforts, within four days the infection spread to the bones. The doctors could see that about half of the two bones were going to be lost, through the infection.

The choice before the owner and the surgeons was whether to amputate the leg or take a chance on saving it. They decided to take the chance.

Dr Erwin F. Schroeder of the Angell Hospital staff took the case. First the wound was opened and drained. Then the dead bones were temporarily wired to the sound

bones, to make a scaffold, so to speak, on which new bone could grow.

The leg was carefully splinted. At the end of the second month the dead bone was removed. An X-Ray taken at this point showed that part of the diseased area had been replaced and enveloped by the new bone growth. The infection had subsided.

Protected by Splint

During all this time the entire limb was kept suspended and at rest by means of a special aluminum splint, covered by light metal. Had it not been for the covering Peter would have gnawed his leg off.

An unusual thing happened. Although the tibia is the big bone, new bone grew from the fibula to fill the space left by removal of diseased parts of the tibia. Dr Schroeder feared at one time that bone-grafting would be necessary, but an orthopedic specialist, after studying the X-ray plates formed the opinion that Peter had a good chance of recovery without it.

Peter still wears his splint, but he is out of danger and it is believed that he will soon be running around as well as ever. Dr Schroeder credits the animal with a sunny disposition and a real determination to get well, and these two factors, he believes, aided Nature materially in effecting the cure.



NEW SURGICAL SUITE is dedicated at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital. Left to right, Joseph Mooney, national field secretary of the S. P. C. A.; Dr. Eric H. Hansen, president; Dr. Erwin F. Schroeder and Dr. C. Lawrence Blakeley.

Angell Memorial Dedicates New Surgical Suite

At dedication exercises yesterday at the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital of the Massachusetts S. P. C. A., 180 Longwood av., a bronze plaque was unveiled naming the new surgical suite in honor of Dr. Erwin F. Schroeder, chief of staff for nearly a quarter century.

Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Schrafft of Winchester, whose gift made possible the new suite. Tributes were paid Dr. Schroeder by Dr. Eric H. Hansen, president of the society, who unveiled the plaque, and Dr. Francis H. Rowley, former president and now chairman of the board.

The plaque reads: "Erwin F. Schroeder Surgical Suite. In recognition of a career in veterinary medicine and a lifetime devoted to the welfare of animals, the W. E. Schraffts have furnished and the M. S. P. C. A. has dedicated these rooms."

The new five-room suite provides facilities for administering anesthesia, a blood bank, an oxygen tank and other equipment.

Nominations Open for Outstanding 10 Young Men

The Boston Junior Chamber of Commerce annual selection of the "Ten Outstanding Young Men of Greater Boston" got underway yesterday with the distribution of 2000 nomination blanks in commercial and professional fields, John E. Sheehy, Jaycee award chairman, announced.

The winners, who will be elected on the basis of their achievement and community leadership, will be honored at the Jaycee Presentation Banquet Feb. 19 at the Hotel Statler.

*Deadline for filing nominations is Jan. 15. Additional nomination forms may be obtained at the Junior Chamber of Commerce, 2 Jersey st., Sheehy said.

Cardinal-Designate Carlo Agostini Dies

VENICE, Sunday, Dec. 28 (AP)—Cardinal-designate Carlo Agostini, 84, Patriarch of Venice, died here today.

Agostini, one of 24 newly designated Cardinals, had been ill for some time with leukemia. He received the last rites of the church on Dec. 17. The next day he received a special telegram of blessing from Pope Pius XII.

His death will leave the sacred college one short of its full quota of 70 after the consistory set by the Pope for Jan. 12 to induct the new Cardinals.

In 1946, when the Pope created 32 Cardinals, the death of Pietro Cardinal Boetto two weeks before the consistory also prevented the college from having its full complement.

Because of deaths prior to other consistories, the college has not had its full number of 70 in at least 200 years.

Agostini was consecrated bishop in 1930, and elevated to the rank of Patriarch of Venice in 1949.

Dr. Erwin Schroeder Angell Memorial Veterinary 25 Years

Dr. Erwin F. Schroeder, 65, chief of staff of the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital on Longwood av., Boston, until his retirement in 1951, died Friday night at New Ulm, Tex.

Associated with the hospital for 25 years, Dr. Schroeder succeeded the late Dr. Hugh F. Dailey as chief of staff in 1939. Since his retirement he had been acting as consultant to the Angell Memorial Hospital.

One of the great orthopedic surgeons in the veterinary profession in this country, he also had received recognition internationally.

Following his retirement he returned to his native Texas, where he resided on a ranch with his wife, who survives him. He also leaves a son, Erwin Jr., and one daughter, Elizabeth, of Boston.

Services will be held Monday at Industry, Tex.

Clerk Heeds Dream, Banks \$1000 in Cash Before Office Holdup

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 27 (AP)—Stephen Stolarski, 44, clerk in a Western Union office here, dreamed he was a victim of a holdup.

So when he came to work last night he took \$1000 in daytime receipts and deposited them. The "hunch" was timely.

Two hours later a pistol-carrying robber demanded "the big stuff." Stolarski turned over \$800 in cash—all late receipts.

It was the second time Stolarski was the victim of a holdup. The first time, too, back in May, 1950, the robbery followed a dream.