



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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PLANNING DIVISION
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**STEP 2: DETERMINATION OF PREFERABLY PRESERVED
STAFF REPORT**

Site: 326 Lowell Street

Case: HP23-000064

Applicant: Alfa Excavation Inc

Owner: 326-328 Lowell Street, LLC

Legal Ad: *The Applicant seeks to
demolish a building constructed
a minimum of 75 years ago.*

HPC Meeting Date*: March 19, 2024



*The determination of Preferably Preserved had been scheduled for the February 20, 2024 meeting of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), but the applicant did not appear. Per the City of Somerville Demolition Review Ordinance (DRO) 7-28 (e)(5)b., the “the owner or applicant, or their representative” are required to attend. Accordingly the hearing was continued to the March 19, 2024 meeting.

The purpose of a staff report is to provide the HPC with additional information and professional assessments regarding properties that are proposed for demolition. These assessments are based on the criteria allowed for consideration by the HPC in accordance with the DRO. A Staff Report is not a determination/decision, nor does it constitute authorization in any form.

I. SUMMARY OF January 16, 2024 MEETING

At their regular public meeting on January 16, 2024, the HPC declared the structure at 326 Lowell Street to be “Historically Significant”. Due to this determination, 326 Lowell Street moved on to the second step in the demolition review process, which calls for the HPC to determine whether or not the building

should be “Preferably Preserved”. A determination of “preferably preserved” does not permanently halt demolition of a building.

II. BUILDINGS UNDER CONSIDERATION

The building at 326 Lowell Street is a two-story structure and constructed in 1851.

Right: 326 Lowell Street



Right: Left Elevation (partially demo'ed)

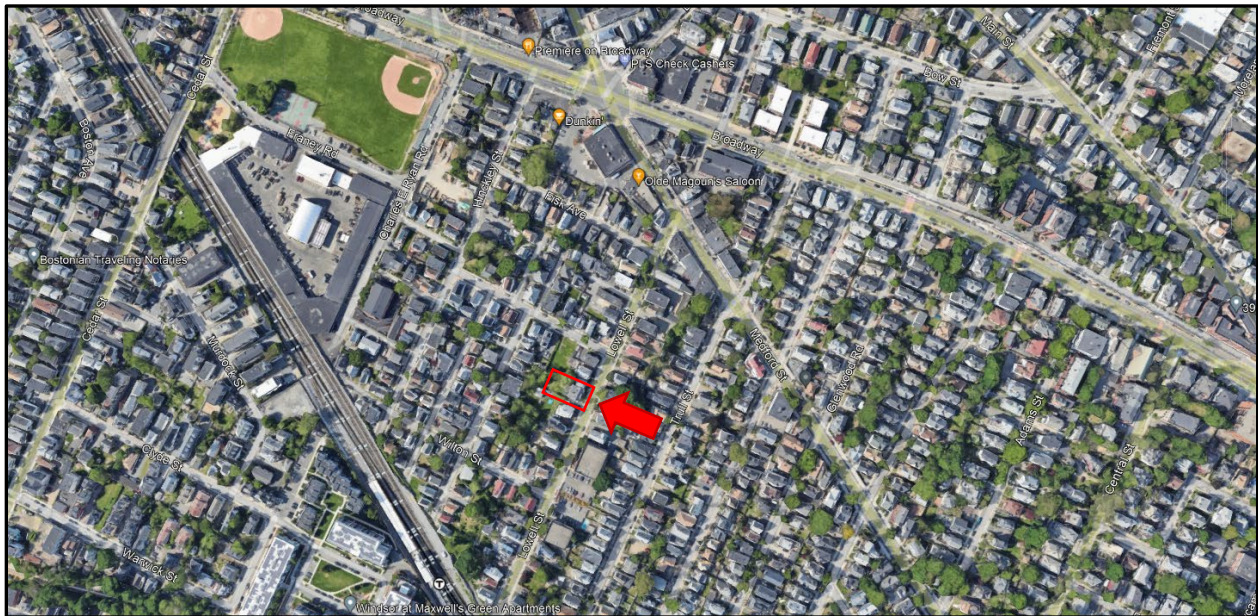


Right: Rear



Right: Right Elevation (partially demo'ed)





Above: Context Map for 326 Lowell Street.

III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Preservation Planning staff has not uncovered any additional information in the intervening weeks since the Historic Significance vote.

To see the historic maps and research regarding structure at 326 Lowell Street and a general history of the area, see the January 16, 2024, staff report on Historic Significance.

IV. DETERMINATION

The HPC must determine one of the following for the structure at 326 Lowell Street:

- a. That the building is Preferably Preserved.
- b. That the building is not Preferably Preserved.
- c. That the building is not Preferably Preserved *with Conditions*.

See the following section V “Findings” for guidance.

V. FINDINGS

The HPC need to make determinations of whether the structure is to be preferably preserved and adopt findings.

a. Preferably Preserved

For a determination of preferably preserved, the HPC must make the following finding:

- *That the demolition of the structure at 326 Lowell Street would be detrimental to the architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social heritage of the City.*

If the HPC makes the above finding, the Commission must state their reasons why they take either position.

b. Not Preferably Preserved

If the HPC makes the above finding, the Commission must state their reasons why they take either position.

c. Not Preferably Preserved with Conditions

For a determination of NOT preferably preserved with Conditions, the HPC must make the following finding:

- *That the structure at 326 Lowell Street does not meet any of the criteria to be “preferably preserved.”. The HPC may add any or all of the following as conditions to this determination:*
 1. *photographic documentation of the building to be demolished;*
 2. *architectural renderings of the building to be demolished;*
 3. *identification of materials for salvage of material; and/or,*
 4. *a plan for installation of historic or interpretive signage at or near the site.*

If the HPC makes the above finding, the HPC must state their reasons why they take this position.

VI. VOTE

When bringing the matter to a vote, the HPC must include the reasons why the structure at **326 Lowell Street** is or is not “preferably preserved”.