



City of Somerville
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 56 Bow Street
PERMIT NUMBER: HP23-000060
OWNER: Ashley Blum
OWNER ADDRESS: 56 Bow St, Somerville MA 02143
APPLICANT: Same as Owner
APPLICANT ADDRESS: Same as Owner
DECISION: **Conditional** Certificate of Appropriateness
DECISION ISSUED: December 19, 2023

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

This decision summarizes the findings made by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) or their designee regarding the **Local Historic District property at 56 Bow Street**.

SCOPE OF WORK

- Installation of an AC unit on the left side behind the porch.

DETERMINATION

Under the Somerville Historic Districts Ordinance (HDO) proposed alterations of Local Historic District (LHD) properties must conform to specific criteria set out in the *Design Guidelines*. In the instance of **56 Bow St**, the proposal meets the following criteria set out in A. *Exterior Walls* & B. *Roofs*, which read(s) as follows:

Utility equipment, such as television antennae, air conditioners, solar collectors and other mechanical units should be restricted to the rear of the property or on portions of the roof that are not visible from a public way. If no other placement is possible, air conditioning and other cooling units on street facades should be of the slim-line type or set flush with the surface of the building and painted the same color as the window trim.

The HPC voted 4-0 to **approve the installation of the AC unit on the left side behind the porch with the addition of the conditions proposed by Staff, but with the modification of Condition #4; the applicant shall screen the condenser unit to the extent feasible, with final approval of the method of material screening by Preservation Staff.** In discussing the application, the Commission discussed the feasibility in screening the AC given the proximity to the structure.

Due to the description of the work, and the provisions set forth in the Historic District Ordinance (HDO) and related Design Guidelines, the Applicant is granted a **Conditional Certificate of Appropriateness to install an AC unit that meets the specifications as stated in the Conditions below.**

The Conditions attached to this Certificate are as follows and must be followed by the Applicant:

CONDITIONS

1. The Applicant shall obtain all necessary permits for this project through the Inspectional Services Department (ISD). The Applicant must upload a copy of this Certificate to their BUILDING PERMIT application and obtain any necessary division/departments sign-offs.

2. This Certificate is for the above-described work only. Any changes to this proposal shall first be submitted to Preservation Planning at historic@somervillema.gov for review and approval PRIOR to implementation. Failure to do so will nullify this Certificate and delay final sign-offs/CO.
3. Any changes to this proposal made prior to the commencement of work or in-the-field changes shall be submitted to Preservation Planning for their review to determine if the changes come under the purview of the HPC. Failure to seek approval for changes may delay final sign-offs/Cos.
4. The Applicant shall screen the condenser unit to the extent feasible, with final approval of the method and material of the screening by Preservation Staff.
5. The Applicant shall contact Preservation Planning a minimum of 15 business days prior to arranging for a final inspection from ISD. Preservation Planners or their designee shall issue a sign-off upon completion of the project that it was executed in accordance with the Certificate of Appropriateness.

Contact shall be made at the following email address ONLY:

historic@somervillema.gov

The Applicant must provide before and after photos of the project area in the email as .JPG attachments. The attachments cannot be embedded in the body of an email.

Issued on behalf of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC):

Eric Parkes, *Chair*
Dick Bauer
Ryan Falvey
DJ Chagnon, *Alt.*

Robin Kelly, *Vice-Chair*
Denise Price
Daniel Coughlin, *Alt.*