



City of Somerville
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

DECISION

2026 MAY 19 P 4:18

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 54 Highland Avenue
PERMIT NUMBER: HP26-000016
OWNER: 54 Highland Avenue LLC
OWNER ADDRESS: 18 Benton Road, Somerville, MA 02143
APPLICANT: Niranjana Gawli
APPLICANT ADDRESS: 32 Murdock St, Somerville, MA 02143
DECISION: *Historically Significant*
DECISION DATE: May 5th, 2026

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA

This decision summarizes the findings made by the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) regarding whether the principal building at 54 Highland Ave is or is not Historically Significant.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Applicant seeks to demolish a building constructed a minimum of 75 years ago.

DETERMINATION

At their meeting on May 5th, 2026, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) voted unanimously that the principal structure located at 54 Highland Ave is Historically Significant in accordance with Section 7-28(e)(3)(b) of the Demolition Review Ordinance 2020-22, as amended 12-08-2022. The following findings apply. This building was determined to be:

- b. *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, and therefore it is in the public interest to be preserved or rehabilitated rather than to be demolished.*

During their deliberations, the Commission found that the structure is indicative of development that occurred within the city between WWI and WWII. The Commission noted that the area along Highland Avenue has evolved with the construction of the high school directly across the street and this type of lot and house is unique in the area. The Commission commented that Colonial Revival homes are not common in the neighborhood and should be maintained.

The principal structure located at 54 Highland Ave will proceed for a future public hearing regarding whether or not it should be Preferably Preserved.

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

Eric Parkes, Chair

Robin Kelly, Vice-Chair
Dick Bauer
Ryan Falvey
Denise Price
DJ Chagnon, Alternate