



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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE STAFF REPORT

Site:	494 Medford Street/ 84 Trull Street
Case:	HPC 2019.087
Applicant Name:	Edward Bernazzani
Date of Application:	November 21, 2019
Recommendation:	NOT Significant
Hearing Date:	December 17, 2019

I. Historical Association

Historical Context: 494 Medford Street was constructed prior to 1874 as a residence. The 1874 Hopkins Atlas shows ownership to M. Hennessy and in 1895 to Agnes Harlow. No information has been found about either of these owners. 494 and 496 Medford Street were under the same ownership from 1874 through 1969 when they buildings were sold to different owners. Unfortunately, the deed trail ends in 1936 with a transfer of the Power of Attorney and subsequent sale of the property which does not reference the prior ownership in book/page form.

Little is known about the early residents of the house until the 1887 City Directory when James H. Fuller, laborer was listed. Members of the Fuller family lived at 84 Trull Street through 1910. A storefront may have been added around 1895 when M. Fuller received a building permit for stores, blacksmith shop, and cut in chimney even though the stores do not appear on the maps until after 1900. Alternatively, the ground floor of the house or the shed seen on the 1895 map might have been used as a store. The storefront does appear on the 1925.

494 Medford Street is the historic address on the deed and appears to have been the address for the storefront. Benjamin E. White had a provisions store there from 1903- 1917. Nathan Baker did shoe repair from 1906-1925. Mary Hogan had a real estate office there for a few years followed by Small's variety store.



It is not known when the storefront was enclosed for living quarters.

Evolution of Site: The historic fire insurance maps show slightly different configurations of the building at 494 Medford Street. An 1895 Building permit was issued for 84 Trull Street to establish a blacksmith shop and stores. This is not reflected in the 1900 Sanborn map. It is clear that a storefront was added to the building between 1900 and 1925. In 1936 a building permit was issued to W. Small to remodel the storefront. Residents have been predominantly of European extraction and worked as shopkeepers in several different fields from grocers to shoe repair to real estate. They have also been both owners and renters.

Architectural Description: The house at 84 Trull Street is a 1 ½ story side gable center entry house. A single story storefront (494 Medford Street) was added to the right side of the building fronting onto Medford Street. This has been enclosed at an unknown date with two double-hung windows. The siding is vinyl. The windows are too.

Summary: The building is a simple 1 ½ story side gable center entry home with a single story flat roofed enclosed storefront along Medford Street. It retains its original form. There maybe a few details beneath the siding. The residents did not come from a particular cultural group and are represent those who work in small businesses.

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/atlas, 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 494 Medford Street not 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 not found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City for the reasons noted above. Although the building has been for much of the 20th century home to shopkeepers and had its own storefront, none have been known to represent a broader group or classification. One resident, Melvin Small was found to be active in youth activities for the Temple B'nai B'rith. Another youth died a rather unusual and horrific death.

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 494 Medford Street begins with its construction as a house prior to 1874. Little is known about the early residents of the house until the 1887 City Directory when James H. Fuller, laborer was listed. Most of the owners appear to have been small shopkeepers.

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. It is located at the corner of a residential Street and a main local road on the edge of the Magoun Square commercial district.
- b. **Design:** The building is a simple rectangular side gable 1 ½ story house with an angled single story enclosed storefront.
- c. **Materials:** The building is constructed of wood with vinyl siding and windows.
- d. **Alterations:** The building has modern siding and window materials and an enclosed early 20th century storefront.

Evaluation of Integrity: Despite the alterations to the building, it still retains integrity of form and massing. The building is a residential building of simple design.

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 do not find 494 Medford Street historically or architecturally significant.

The subject building is not found historically and architecturally significant. The building is not associated with an architect. While it retains integrity of form, the building does not have any distinctive architecture. It is architecturally typical in form and shape but not located in a group of similar buildings. There are three remaining houses on the south side in the commercial section of Magoun Square amidst 1920s and 1950s storefronts. There are also a few houses raised either on top of storefronts on the north side.

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.

(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 1874, 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.

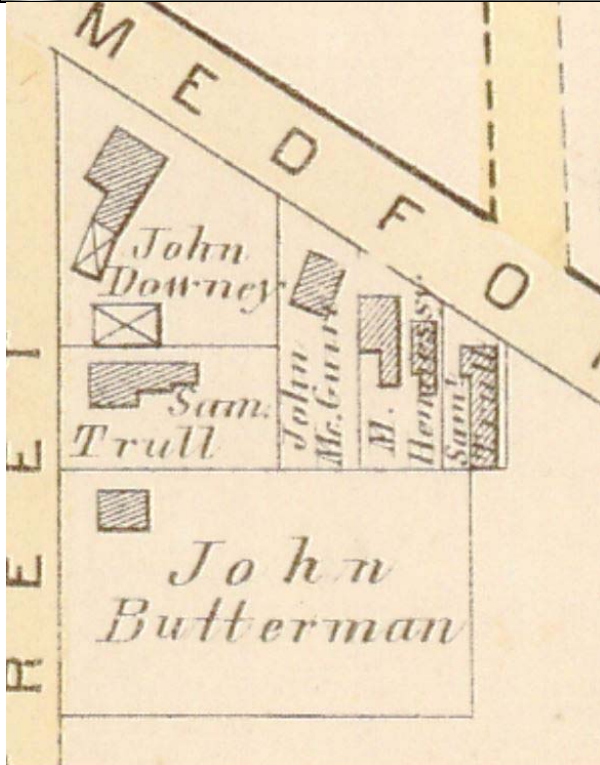
(a) In accordance with the *Findings on Historical Association*, which utilizes historic maps/atlasses, City reports and directories, and building permit research, and through an examination of resources that document the history of the City, **Staff recommend that the Historic Preservation Commission do not find 494 Medford Street 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 not found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City for the reasons noted above. Although the building has been for much of the 20th century home to shopkeepers and had its own storefront, none have been known to represent a broader group or classification. One resident, Melvin Small was found to be active in youth activities for the Temple B'nai B'rith. Another youth died a rather unusual and horrific death.

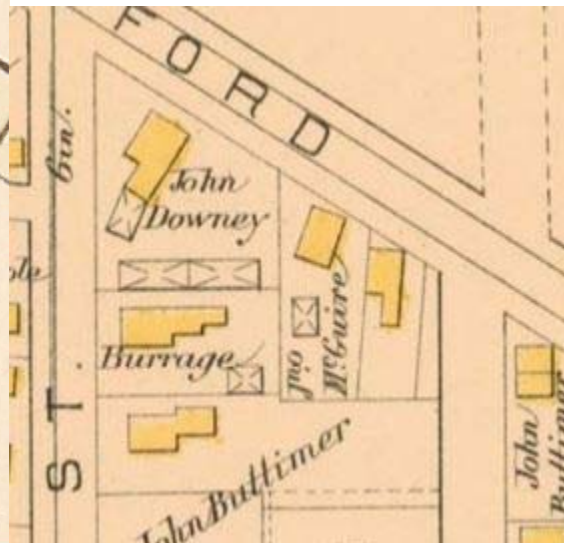
OR

(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 do not find 494 Medford Street historically and architecturally significant.**

The subject building is not found historically and architecturally significant. The building is not associated with an architect. While it retains integrity of form, the building does not have any distinctive architecture. It is architecturally typical in form and shape but not located in a group of similar buildings. There are three remaining houses on the south side in the commercial section of Magoun Square amidst 1920s and 1950s storefronts. There are also a few houses raised either on top of storefronts on the north side.



1874 Hopkins Plate 30-31

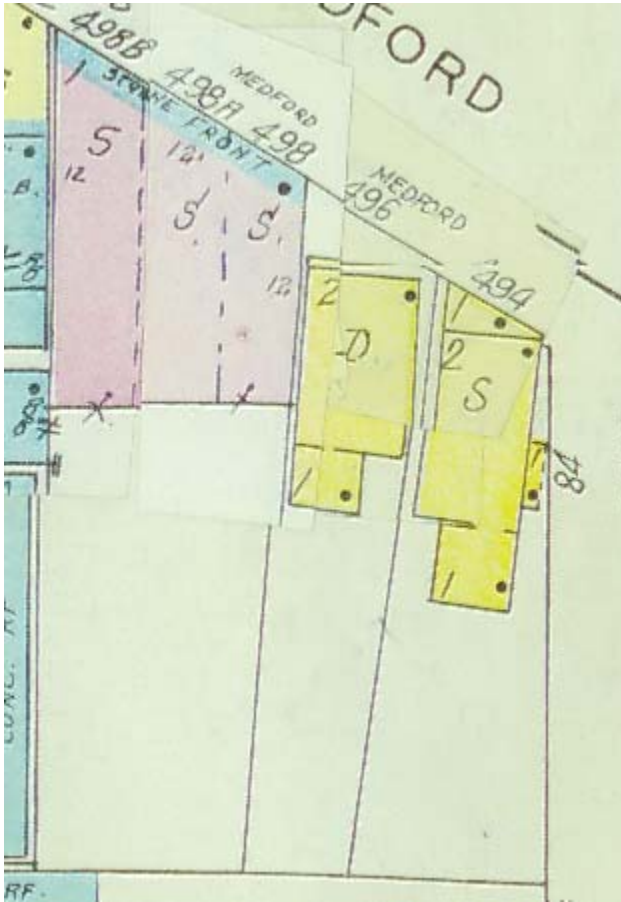


1884 Hopkins 12



1895 Bromley Plate 15

1925 Sanborn Plate 49



1958 Sanborn Plate 237





**494 Medford Street
84 Trull Lane**

Address	LOCATION	O/R	NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	SOURCE Immigration Year	NOTES
	494 Medford Street		James H. Fuller		Laborer		1887 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		James H. Fuller		Laborer		1889 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Lee Sam		Laundry		1895 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		James Reitsma		Grocer		1903 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1904 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1905 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1906 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Benjamin E. White		Provisions		1907 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1908 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1909 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1910 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1911 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1912 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Elzier Ethier		Clerk, bds 33 Partridge		1912 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1913 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1914 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1915 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1916 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Repair		1916 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		B. E. White		Provisions		1917 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Repair		1918 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Repair		1919 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Repair		1919 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Repair		1920 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Repair		1924 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Repair		1925 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Mrs. Mary E. Hogan		Real Estate Owners & Dealers		1927 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Mary E. Hogan				1929 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Mrs. Mary E. Hogan		Real Estate Owners & Dealers		1929 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		Thomas F. Falvey		Meats, retail		1933 Somerville Directory	
	494 Medford Street		W. Small				1936-1-260 Building Permit	New Storefront
	494 Medford Street		Small's Variety				1956-1-334 Building Permit	Erect double face sign
	494 Medford Street		T. De Angelo				1960-1-424 Building Permit	Demolish chimney
	494 Medford Street		W. Small				1964-1-45 Building Permit	Erect sign
	494 Medford Street/84 Tru O		Joseph Cohen				1916 Survey PB 255/4	Survey by Charles J. Elliot
	494 Medford Street/84 Tru O		Jacob Sloane				1936 Mortgage 6053/88	from Wiliam & Anna B. Small
	494 Medford Street/84 Tru O		Melvin Small, Freda Tubman and Edith P. Goldwin				1969 Deed 11792/373	from Wiliam & Anna B. Small
	494 Medford Street/84 Tru O		Wiliam & Anna B. Small				1969 Discharge 11719/160	from estate of Jacob Sloane
	494 Medford Street/84 Tru O		Vicenza L. (Caruso) DeLuca & Donna M. (Caruso) Snow				1974 Deed 12657/452	from Melvin Small, Freda Tubman and Edith P. Goldwin
	494 Medford Street/84 Tru O		Marcus J. Silva				2012 Deed 58403/491	from Vicenza L. (Caruso) DeLuca & Donna M. (Caruso) Snow
	494 Medford Street/84 Tru O		Jacquelyn Wells				2015 Deed 65176/577	from Marcus J. Silva
	494 Medford Street/84 Tru O		Edward Bernazzani				2019 Deed 72670/511	from Jacquelyn Wells
	84 Trull Street		Charles F. Fuller		Laborer		1890 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James Fuller II		Laborer		1890 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Charles F. Fuller		Laborer		1892 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Charles F. Fuller		Lather		1893 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		John H. Bousfield		Carpenter		1893 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		John H. Bousfield		Carpenter		1894 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James H. Fuller		Laborer		1895 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James Harry Fuller		Plumbing Apprentince		1895 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		M. Fuller				1895-1-16 Buiding Permit	Stores, blacksmith shop, cut in chimney
	84 Trull Street		James Harry Fuller		Plumber's Apprentice		1896 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James Fuller I		Clerk		1897 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James H. Fuller		Laborer		1897 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James Harry Fuller		Plumber		1897 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James H. Fuller		Laborer		1898 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James Harry Fuller		Plumber		1898 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James H. Fuller		Laborer		1899 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James Harry Fuller		Plumber		1899 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James H. Fuller		Laborer		1900 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		James Harry Fuller		Plumber		1900 Somerville Directory	
179/238	84 Trull Street	O	James H. Fuller (head)	52	Park Policeman	Canada, English	1852	1900 US Census
179/238	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller (wife)	49		Ireland	1861	1900 US Census
179/238	84 Trull Street		James H. Fuller (son)	25	Plumber's Helper	Massachusetts		1900 US Census
179/238	84 Trull Street		Frances A. Gallagher (servant)	16	Servant	Massachusetts		1900 US Census
	84 Trull Street		James Harry Fuller		Plumber			1901 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		James H. Fuller		Laborer			1903 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		J. Henry Fuller		Plumber			1905 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller		Widow of James H. Fuller			1905 Somerville Directory

**494 Medford Street
84 Trull Lane**

Year	LOCATION	O/R	NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	SOURCE Immigration Year	NOTES
	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller		Widow of James H. Fuller		1906 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller		Widow of James H. Fuller		1907 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller		Widow of James H. Fuller		1908 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller		Widow of James H. Fuller		1909 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller		Widow of James H. Fuller		1910 Somerville Directory	
279/353	84 Trull Street	O	Mary J. Fuller (head)	61		Ireland, English	1910 US Census	
	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller		Widow of James H. Fuller		1912 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller		Widow of James H. Fuller		1913 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Mary J. Fuller		Widow of James H. Fuller		1914 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Eva Saval		Wife of Joseph Saval		1918 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Joseph Saval		Tailor		1918 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Eva Saval		Wife of Joseph Saval		1919 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Joseph Saval		Tailor		1919 Somerville Directory	
	84 Trull Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Repair, 494 Medford St		1920 Somerville Directory	
66/70	84 Trull Street	R	Nathan Baker (head)	36	Shoes & Shoe Repairing	Russia	1904	1920 US Census
66/70	84 Trull Street		Fanny Baker (wife)	29		Massachusetts		1920 US Census
66/70	84 Trull Street		Bessie Baker (daughter)	4		Massachusetts		1920 US Census
	84 Trull Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Repair			1924 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		Fannie Baker		Wife of Nathan Baker			1925 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		Nathan Baker		Shoe Dealer, 502 Medford St			1925 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		Helen Scutellaro		Wife of James Scutellaro			1929 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		James Scutellaro		Musician			1929 Somerville Directory
45/110	84 Trull Street	R	Vincent Lombardo (head)	45	Shoe Maker, Repair Shop	Italy	1910	1930 US Census
45/110	84 Trull Street		Dora Lombardo (wife)	46		Holland	1906	1930 US Census
45/110	84 Trull Street		Aluepins Tinlaciagany (stepson)	15		Holland	1906	1930 US Census
45/110	84 Trull Street		John Lombardo (son)	8		Italy	1923	1930 US Census
45/110	84 Trull Street		George Lomabardo (son)	6		Massachusetts		1930 US Census
	84 Trull Street		Alfred Tenhagen	16				1931 Boston Globe
	84 Trull Street		Dora Lombardo		Wife of Vincent Lombardo			1933 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		Vincent Lombardo		Shoe Repair			1933 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		Anna B. Small		Wife of William Small			1940 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		Melvin Small					1940 Somerville Directory
	84 Trull Street		William Small		Variety			1940 Somerville Directory
160	84 Trull Street	O	William Small (head)	47	Packer, Furniture	Russia		1940 US Census
160	84 Trull Street		Rachael Sloane (mother-in-law)	71		Russia		1940 US Census
160	84 Trull Street		Anna Small (wife)	44	Clerk, Retail Grocery	Russia		1940 US Census
160	84 Trull Street		Melvin Small (son)	18		Russia		1940 US Census
160	84 Trull Street		Freda Small (daughter)	16		Russia		1940 US Census
160	84 Trull Street		Edith Small (daughter)	12		Massachusetts		1940 US Census
		O	M. Hennessy					1874 Hopkins Atlas Plate 30-31
		O	Agnes Harlow					1895 Bromley Plate 15

numerous mentions in Boston Globe for youth participation in Temple B'nai B'rith activities, debate team, passing bar exam.