



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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

July 23, 2019

Sunayana Thomas, Senior Economic Development Planner
O.S.P.C.D.
City Hall, 2nd Floor
93 Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02143

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
SOMERVILLE, MA
2019 JUL 23 P 2:36

**Re: Demolition of the wood-frame house
at 5 Palmer Avenue**

Determined Significant: July 16, 2019

Ms. Thomas,

On Tuesday, July 16, 2019, the Historic Preservation Commission voted to determine the c. 1884 wood-frame dwelling at 5 Palmer Avenue 'Significant' because the building, per Section 2.17.B of the Demolition Review Ordinance 2003-05, is "at least 50 years old, and is or has been determined by the Commission to be a significant building or structure after a finding that the building or structure is either:

- i. "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 of Massachusetts, or
- ii. "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 or structures, and therefore it is in the public interest to be preserved or rehabilitated rather than to be demolished."

The Commission found **5 Palmer Avenue** to be historically significant according to criteria "i" above, in terms of the broad cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth. The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its Italianate style architecture prevalent at that time and associations with Irish immigrant workers.

The Commission will hold a public hearing on August 8, 2019 to review the initial determination of 'Significance' and if the buildings should be 'Preferably Preserved.' Per Section 4.2.D¹, to the Public testimony will be taken at the hearing, followed by a discussion and a vote by the Commission.

If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me at (617) 625-6600 x 2525.

Sincerely,



Kristenna P. Chase
Preservation Planner, Planning Division
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning & Community Development

Cc: Paul Nonni, Sr. Building Inspector, Inspectional Services Division
Sarah A. Lewis, Director, Planning Division
Hans Jensen, Zoning Review Planner
John Long, City Clerk
Sarah White, Planner/Preservation Planner

¹ "If the Commission determines that the demolition of the significant building or structure would be detrimental architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social heritage of the City, such building or structure shall be considered preferably preserved."