



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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS, AICP  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION*

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**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE STAFF REPORT**

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Site: 59 Linden Avenue - Barn  
Case: HPC 2019.062  
Applicant Name: Fan Wang  
Date of Application: August 21, 2019  
Recommendation: Significant  
Hearing Date: September 17, 2019

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**I. Historical Association**

*Historical Context:* The house and barn at 59 Linden Avenue were constructed between 1884 and 1895. The property was owned by Wilbur P. Rice, a noted property developer who did not live at his address. See attached obituary. Residents of the building had a range of jobs from confectionary to photo engraver, furniture mover to janitor. Due to a foreclosure, the deed research came to a stop in 1936 with the bank sale to James and Margaret Fallon, originally of Irish descent. See attached research table.

*Architectural Description:* The barn is a side gable structure with wood doors, vinyl siding, asphalt shingle siding and an asphalt roof. The building may have been enlarged toward the left lot line probably to accommodate a longer vehicle or used as a chicken coop. No building permits were found for this alteration. There is a pedestrian door and window on the house side of the building and a hay loft/window toward the rear property line. Interior investigation would be necessary to clearly evaluate the building for structural changes and interpretation.



The house is constructed in a simple Queen Anne style.

*Summary:* The barn at 59 Linden Avenue is located behind the house and not visible from the street. Architecturally, the building has little distinction. Siding materials have been altered and the side of the building has been extended. See attached photos.

### **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/atlasses, 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 **do not** find 59 Linden Avenue 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 one or more historic persons or events. While the land was probably developed by Wilbur P. Rice, he is known to have built many hundred homes in Somerville. It is associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due its construction type and use. Barns and stable were necessary adjuncts to the pre-automotive era.

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## **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 the 59 Linden Avenue house and barn begins with its construction circa 1895.

### ***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 one house in from Summer Street on Linden Avenue, a quiet neighborhood street. The barn is located at the back of the lot behind the house against the hill.
- b. Design: The building barn is a simple gabled rectangle with low side addition.
- c. Materials: The building is constructed with wood. Siding materials are varied. They include plywood, board, brick patterned asphalt, and vinyl.
- d. Alterations: The siding, doors and windows have been altered. The low side extension of the building may or may not be an alteration.

*Evaluation of Integrity:* Despite the alterations to the building, the barn retains integrity of form and massing.

### **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 find 59 Linden Avenue barn historically or architecturally significant.

The subject barn at 59 Linden Avenue is found historically and architecturally significant due to its method of building construction and its association with pre-automotive Somerville.

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### 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 1895, 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 59 Linden Avenue - barn importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, but do find the barn associated with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth.**

The barn at 59 Linden Avenue is not found importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events. While the land was probably developed by Wilbur P. Rice, he is known to have built many hundred homes in Somerville. It is associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due its construction type and use. Barns and stable were necessary adjuncts to the pre-automotive era.

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 find 59 Linden Avenue barn historically and architecturally significant.**

The subject barn at 59 Linden Avenue is found historically and architecturally significant due to its method of building construction and its association with pre-automotive Somerville.











| House Number | LOCATION         | O/R | NAME                                 | AGE | OCCUPATION                    | PLACE OF BIRTH   | Immigration Year | SOURCE                      | NOTES                             |
|--------------|------------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Dwight E. Carr                       |     | Confectioner                  |                  |                  | 1890 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Dwight E. Carr                       |     | Confectioner, Boston          |                  |                  | 1892 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue | O   | Wilbur P. Rice                       |     |                               |                  |                  | 1895 Bromley Atlas Plate 16 |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Herbert L. Jones                     |     | Confectionary                 |                  |                  | 1895 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | George E. Richards                   |     | Bookkeeper                    |                  |                  | 1895 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Herbert L. Jones                     |     | Confectionary                 |                  |                  | 1897 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | George H. Richards                   |     | Bookkeeper                    |                  |                  | 1897 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Herbert L. Jones                     |     | Confectionary                 |                  |                  | 1898 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Charles Howard                       |     | Brakeman                      |                  |                  | 1899 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue | O   | W. P. Rice                           |     |                               |                  |                  | 1900 Stadly Atlas Plate 16  |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Michael J. Leahy                     |     | Milkman                       |                  |                  | 1901 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Michael J. Leahy                     |     | Milkman                       |                  |                  | 1902 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Michael Leahy                        |     |                               |                  |                  | 1903 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | William G. Bernard                   |     | Photo Engraver, Boston        |                  |                  | 1905 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | William G. Bernard                   |     | Photo Engraver, Boston        |                  |                  | 1906 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Rhoda A. M. Barnard                  |     | Widow of Albert F. Barnard    |                  |                  | 1906 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Rhoda A. M. Barnard                  |     | Widow of Albert F. Barnard    |                  |                  | 1907 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | William G. Bernard                   |     | Photo Engraver, Boston        |                  |                  | 1909 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Rhoda A. M. Barnard                  |     | Widow of Albert F. Barnard    |                  |                  | 1909 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | William G. Bernard                   |     | Photo Engraver, Boston        |                  |                  | 1910 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Rhoda A. M. Barnard                  |     | Widow of Albert F. Barnard    |                  |                  | 1910 City Directory         |                                   |
| 240/760      | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Rhoda M. Barnard (mother)            | 80  |                               | Vermont          |                  | 1910 US Census              |                                   |
| 240/760      | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Kate Barnard (wife)                  | 56  |                               | Massachusetts    |                  | 1910 US Census              |                                   |
| 240/760      | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Alice M. Barnard (sister)            | 50  |                               | Massachusetts    |                  | 1910 US Census              |                                   |
| 240/760      | 59 Linden Avenue | O   | William G. Barnard (head)            | 47  | Photo Engraver                | Massachusetts    |                  | 1910 US Census              |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | William G. Bernard                   |     | Photo Engraver, Boston        |                  |                  | 1911 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | William G. Bernard                   |     | Photo Engraver, Boston        |                  |                  | 1912 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Rhoda A. M. Barnard                  |     | Widow of Albert F. Barnard    |                  |                  | 1912 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Rhoda A. M. Barnard                  |     | Widow of Albert F. Barnard    |                  |                  | 1913 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | William G. Bernard                   |     | Photo Engraver, Boston        |                  |                  | 1914 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Rhoda A. M. Barnard                  |     | Widow of Albert F. Barnard    |                  |                  | 1914 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John H. Ford                         |     | Painter                       |                  |                  | 1916 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Edward J. Ford                       |     | Driver                        |                  |                  | 1916 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Mrs. Elizabeth Ford                  |     |                               |                  |                  | 1918 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John H. Ford                         |     | Painter                       |                  |                  | 1918 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John H. Ford                         |     | Painter                       |                  |                  | 1919 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Lucy Ford                            |     | Bookbinder                    |                  |                  | 1920 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John H. Ford                         |     | Painter                       |                  |                  | 1920 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Elizabeth Ford                       |     |                               |                  |                  | 1920 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Edward Ford                          |     | Furniture Mover               |                  |                  | 1920 City Directory         |                                   |
| 27/53        | 59 Linden Avenue | O   | Elizabeth A. Ford (head)             | 75  |                               | Ireland          |                  | 1920 US Census              |                                   |
| 27/53        | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Lucy J. Ford (sister)                | 72  |                               | Ireland          |                  | 1920 US Census              |                                   |
| 27/53        | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John H. Ford (brother)               | 59  |                               | Ireland          |                  | 1920 US Census              |                                   |
| 27/53        | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Edward J. Ford (brother)             | 57  |                               | Ireland          |                  | 1920 US Census              |                                   |
| 27/53        | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John Miller (grand-nephew)           | 13  |                               | Massachusetts    |                  | 1920 US Census              |                                   |
| 27/53        | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Harold F. Miller (grand-nephew)      | 11  |                               | Massachusetts    |                  | 1920 US Census              |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Lucy Ford                            |     |                               |                  |                  | 1924 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John Ford                            |     | Painter                       |                  |                  | 1924 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Edward Ford                          |     | Janitor                       |                  |                  | 1924 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John Ford                            |     | Painter                       |                  |                  | 1925 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Edward Ford                          |     | Janitor                       |                  |                  | 1925 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John Ford                            |     | Painter                       |                  |                  | 1927 City Directory         |                                   |
|              |                  | O   | Bernasconi                           |     |                               |                  |                  | 1927-2-660 Building Permit  | Enlarge pantry in rear            |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Mary Bernasconi                      |     | Wife of Edward Bernasconi     |                  |                  | 1929 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Marie Bernasconi                     |     | Wife of Aduiado Bernasconi    |                  |                  | 1929 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Joseph E Caselli                     |     | Buss Boy                      |                  |                  | 1929 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Aduiado Bernasconi                   |     | Mason                         |                  |                  | 1929 City Directory         |                                   |
| 235/419      | 59 Linden Avenue | O   | Edward R. Bernasconi (head)          | 45  | Mason                         | Italy            | 1909             | 1930 US Census              |                                   |
| 235/419      | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Mary Bernasconi (wife)               | 44  |                               | Italy            | 1906             | 1930 US Census              |                                   |
| 235/419      | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Joseph M. Castelle (stepson)         | 19  | Busboy, Hotel                 | Massachusetts    |                  | 1930 US Census              |                                   |
| 235/419      | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Michael A. Castelle (stepson)        | 13  |                               | Massachusetts    |                  | 1930 US Census              |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Mary Bernasconi                      |     | Wife of Edward Bernasconi     |                  |                  | 1933 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Joseph E Caselli                     |     | Buss Boy                      |                  |                  | 1933 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Edward Bernasconi                    |     | Mason                         |                  |                  | 1933 City Directory         |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue | O   | James Fallon & Margaret Fallon       |     |                               |                  |                  | 1936 Deed f6047/350         | from Cambridge Savings Bank       |
| 312          | 59 Linden Avenue | O   | James Follon (head)                  | 45  | Glycerine Maker, Soap Factory | Irish Free State |                  | 1940 US Census              |                                   |
| 312          | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Margaret M. Follon (wife)            | 43  |                               | Irish Free State |                  | 1940 US Census              |                                   |
| 312          | 59 Linden Avenue |     | James Follon Junior (son)            | 10  |                               | Massachusetts    |                  | 1940 US Census              |                                   |
| 312          | 59 Linden Avenue |     | John F. Follon (son)                 | 9   |                               | Massachusetts    |                  | 1940 US Census              |                                   |
| 312          | 59 Linden Avenue |     | Francis Follon (son)                 | 5   |                               | Massachusetts    |                  | 1940 US Census              |                                   |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue | O   | Michael J. Colbert & Mary J. Colbert |     |                               |                  |                  | 1974 Deed 12666/45          | from estate of Margaret M. Fallon |
|              | 59 Linden Avenue | O   | Fan Wang & Marc Wagner               |     |                               |                  |                  | 2019 Deed 71317/47          | from estate of Michael J. Colbert |
|              |                  |     |                                      |     |                               |                  |                  |                             |                                   |
|              |                  |     |                                      |     |                               |                  |                  |                             |                                   |
|              |                  |     |                                      |     |                               |                  |                  |                             |                                   |

## CANDIDATES QUESTIONED.

### Harvard Political Club Wants to Know Their Attitude as Regards the Income Tax.

The Harvard political club yesterday sent by registered mail a circular letter to every candidate for the Massachusetts house and senate, asking them their stand on the income tax.

Officers of the club, which is a non-partisan political association, are John Ray Gilman pres, and Roger Sherman Hoar treas. The former is prominent in republican and the latter in democratic state politics. On the executive committee are Mr Harding, a leading member of the Harvard socialist club, and Mr Loring, a republican alderman of Beverly.

## BUILT 1500 BUILDINGS.

### Funeral of Wilbur P. Rice to Be Held Wednesday Morning From St Cecilia's Church, Back Bay.

The funeral of Wilbur P. Rice, a Somerville business man, who died a couple of days ago at his home, 200 Bay State rd, after a long illness, will be held tomorrow morning. Requiem services will take place in St Cecilia's church, Back Bay, at 10 o'clock.

He was born in Bear River, N S, 55 years ago. For the past 30 years he has been in the real estate and lumber business in Somerville, and during that time it is said he built as many as 1500 houses and business blocks in that city. He leaves a wife, who was Miss Mary Donnelly of this city, and four daughters and a son, Walter A. Rice, who has been engaged with his father in business.

## ELECTRICIAN BADLY HURT.

### Whidden Struck by Wagon Wheel at Melrose While Attempting to Stop Frightened Horse.

MELROSE, Oct 18—Robert H. Whidden, aged 41, electrician of the Melrose fire department and son-in-law of Chief Engineer Joseph Edwards, was seriously injured this evening on Irving st.

In company with Joe Harris, formerly pitcher of the Boston Americans, Whidden had been trimming trees on the street to clear the wires of the electric signal service, and while Harris was cutting a limb Whidden stood at the foot of the tree in charge of the horse and wagon of the department.

The limb falling from the tree struck the horse and caused him to run away. In trying to stop him Whidden was struck in the back of the head by a front wheel of the wagon and was knocked down. He was rendered unconscious and was taken to the Melrose hospital, where he was found to be badly cut about the face.

The hospital authorities fear that his skull is also fractured and consider his condition dangerous.

## TO AID REV FR DI MILLA.

### Italian Catholics Have, Party Attended by About 700.

The Italian Catholics of the South End held a reunion last evening in Odd Fellows' hall, Tremont st, in aid of the church of Our Lady of Pompell on Harrison av, near Dover st. The affair was a big success.

A gathering of about 700, about one-half of whom were Italians, attended. The guests were entertained by Rev Fr Pasquale Di Milla during the evening. Francis P Aieta was floor director, assisted by Edward A. Campana and John B. Romeo, who was chief of aids. The executive committee included Rev Fr Di Milla, Miss Mildred L. Russo, Miss Katherine L. Delaney, Miss Katherine Costello, Miss Helena Tortorella and Miss Elizabeth Werner.