

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

GEORGE J. PROAKIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

May 28, 2019

WashDev2, LLC 22 McGrath Highway Somerville, MA 02143 Sean T. O'Donovan 741 Broadway Somerville, MA 02144 SOMERVILLE, MA

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Re:

Demolition of the wood-frame house building Determined Significant: 4/16/2019 at 7 Washington Street, Somerville Determined Preferably Preserved: 5/21/2019

Sirs.

At the public hearing on Tuesday, May 21, 2019, the Historic Preservation Commission voted unanimously (7-0) to determine the wood-framed structure at 7 **Washington Street** 'Preferably Preserved.' Per Section 4.2.D of the Demolition Review Ordinance 2003-05, "If the Commission determines that the demolition of the significant building or structure would be detrimental to the architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social heritage of the City, such building or structure shall be considered a Preferably Preserved building or structure." The Commission found demolition detrimental to the City.

The period of significance for 7 Washington Street begins with its construction *prior to* 1874. The Mansard or Second Empire style is characterized by the double-pitched roof with a steep lower slope and dormers, and use of brackets and cornices. This style was popular 1855-1885.

The Commission found 7 Washington Street importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its Mansard style architecture, and its associations with the notable Lariat family. It is one of two remaining Mansard cottages on Washington Street and sets the tone for the neighborhood going up Mount Vernon and Crescent Streets and epitomizes the more domestic character that portions of Washington Street had prior to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century

Upon a determination of Preferably Preserved, in accordance with Section 4.5, "the Building Inspector may issue a demolition permit at any time, upon receipt of written advice from the Commission that there is no reasonable likelihood that either the owner or some other person or group is willing to purchase, preserve, rehabilitate or restore such building or structure."

With this determination, the 9-month demolition delay period commenced on April 17, 2019. During this 9-month period, the Applicant and/or Agents thereof are *expected* to meet with members of the Commission and Preservation Staff to work through alternatives to demolition and/or work on redevelopment proposals. Please contact the Preservation Staff through the Planning Office to commit to these meetings.



Case: HPC 20182019.016 - 7 Washington Street

Please contact me at (617) 625-6600 x 2525 with questions regarding this determination or if there is interest in participating in the Public Meetings.

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

George Proakis, Director, Planning Division

J. Brandon Wilson, Executive Director, Historic Preservation Commission

John Long, City Clerk