



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
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MAYOR

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE STAFF REPORT

Site:	906 Broadway
Case:	HPC 2018.097
Applicant Name:	Cindy He
Date of Application:	September 4, 2018
Recommendation:	Significant
Hearing Date:	September 25, 2018

I. Historical Association

Historical Context: Broadway is one of the oldest roads in Somerville running from the Charlestown neck to the Alewife Brook. The western section of Somerville beyond Winter Hill was largely farmland and clay pits until the last half of the 19th century. 906 Broadway was constructed prior to 1893 when George A. Dusseault appears in the Somerville City Directory as residing there. Deeds show that the property was purchased by William B. Allen of Boston from the heirs of William A. Russell in 1891.

George A. Dusseault lived at 906 Broadway from 1893 through 1920. He purchased the house in 1906 and turned the house into a 2-family residence sometime around 1917. He worked primarily in meat-packing as a salesman and later a manager on Blackstone Street.

Subsequent known residents were primarily professionals.

Architectural Description: 906 Broadway is a large Queen Anne style house with a faceted corner turret surmounted by a finial. See photos.

While the essential massing of the building remains, the building has altered fenestration, and an over-sized box dormer probably constructed in 1959 by the then owner Robert Foster which extends over the eave at the left rear corner of the building. The porches are partially enclosed on the front right façade and enclosed on the rear façade. The siding is asbestos shingle over the original wood as can be seen in the shallow exposure of the original window casings.

Summary: 906 Broadway is a turreted Queen Anne style house with some alterations. The house was owned and inhabited by middleclass families.

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 906 Broadway to be importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or but **find** it associated with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth.

The subject building is found importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, economic and social history of the City due to its architectural style – Queen Anne despite alterations.

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 906 Broadway begins circa 1893 when the first resident was found in the City Directory...

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 and is located on the corner of a main local artery just outside Powder House Circle.
- b. **Design:** The basic form of the Queen Anne house exhibits all the characteristic massing despite additions.
- c. **Materials:** The building is wood-framed with replacement windows, asbestos shingles and 3-tab asphalt shingles.
- d. **Alterations:** The partially and fully enclosed porches on the front and rear as well as the over-sized wraparound dormer detract from the essential integrity of the building.

Evaluation of Integrity:

The building is located behind a high hedge on the corner of a main local artery. The form and massing are clearly Queen Anne. The building does have several minor alterations that could be reversed.

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 finds architecturally significant.

The subject building is found architecturally significant due to the buildings style which was characteristic of middle class housing at the time it was constructed.

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 1891, 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**.*

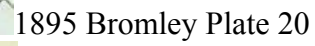
(a) In accordance with the *Findings on Historical Association*, which utilizes historic maps/atlasses, City reports and directories, and building permit research, and through an examination of resources that document the history of the City, **Staff recommend that**

the Historic Preservation Commission find 906 Broadway importantly associated with the broad architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the City or the Commonwealth.

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 906 Broadway and architecturally significant.**







Case Number	LOCATION	O/R	NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	SOURCE	NOTES
	Plan Book 39/Plan 40	O	William B. Allen				1891 Deed 2024/195	from William A. Russell
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Salesman, Boston		1893 City Directory	
			George A. Dusseault		Salesman, 42 Merchants Row, Boston		1894 City Directory	
	Plan Book 39/Plan 40, Lots 46 & 47	O	William B. Allen				1895 Bromley Map Plate 20	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Salesman (42 Merchants Row, Boston)		1895 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Salesman, Boston		1897 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager, 1 Blackstone, Boston		1898 City Directory	
	Plan Book 39/Plan 40, Lots 46 & 47	O	W. B. Allen				1900 Stadley	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Provisions, Boston		1901 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Beef, Boston		1902 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager, 28 Blackstone Street, Boston		1903 City Directory	
			George A. Dusseault		Manager, Corwin-Wild Company on Blackstone		1905 Boston Globe	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager		1905 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager, 28 Blackstone Street, Boston		1906 City Directory	
	Plan Book 39/Plan 40, Lots 46 & 47	O	George A. Dusseault				1906 Deed 3209/129	from William B. Allen
	906 Broadway		Clarence E. Dusseault				1909 City Directory	
139/1 90	906 Broadway		Mary E. Dusseault (mother)	66		Maine	1910 US Census	
139/1 90	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault (head)	45	Manager, Beef Firm	Massachusetts	1910 US Census	
139/1 90	906 Broadway		Mary F. Dusseault (wife)	45		Massachusetts	1910 US Census	
139/1 90	906 Broadway		Julia H. Dusseault (daughter)	16		Massachusetts	1910 US Census	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Commission Merchant		1911 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Mary E. Dusseault		Widow of Adolphus		1911 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Commission Merchant		1913 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager, Boston		1914 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Judith H. Dusseault		Wife of George A. Dusseault		1914 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Mary E. Dusseault		Widow of Adolphus; died Feb 20, 1914		1914 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager, Boston		1915 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Edward W. Hawkes		Chief Yeoman, USN		1917 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Judith H. Hawkes		Wife of Edward W. Hawkes		1917 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager, Boston		1919 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Edward W. Hawkes		Clerk, USN		1919 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager, Boston		1920 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault (head)	54	Beef Packing	Massachusetts	1920 US Census	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager, Boston		1925 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Lilia S. Dusseault		Wife of George A. Dusseault		1925 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		George A. Dusseault		Manager, Boston		1927 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Lilia S. Dusseault		Wife of George A. Dusseault		1927 City Directory	
	Plan Book 39/Plan 40, Lots 46 & 47	O	William Wolfe				1928 Deed 5312/539	from George A. Dusseault
	906 Broadway		Frederick Reed				1929 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		A. Lillian Reed		Wife of Frederick Reed		1929 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Arthur B. Reid		Pharmacist		1929 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Clara W. Reid		Wife of Arthur B. Reid		1929 City Directory	
25/29	906 Broadway	R	Arthur B. Read (head)	56	Prescription Clerk, Drugstore	Massachusetts	1930 US Census	
25/29	906 Broadway		Clara J W Read (wife)	54		Massachusetts	1930 US Census	
25/29	906 Broadway		Alice L. Read (daughter)	30	Clerk, Bank	Massachusetts	1930 US Census	
25/29	906 Broadway		Fred L. Read (son)	19	Messenger, Bank	Massachusetts	1930 US Census	
	906 Broadway		Gerturde McGrath		Widow of John W. McGrath		1933 City Directory	
	908 Broadway		Lalia K. Hunt		Bookkeeper		1940 City Directory	
	908 Broadway		Muriel A. Hunt		Clerk		1940 City Directory	
	908 Broadway		Mrs. Mazie E. Hunt				1940 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Allison Campbell		Bookkeeper		1940 City Directory	
	906 Broadway		Thelma Campbell		Wife of Allison Campbell		1940 City Directory	
89	908 Broadway	R	Mazie E. Hunt (head)	71		Canada English	1940 US Census	
89	908 Broadway		Muriel A. Hunt	40	Clerk, Life Insurance	Canada English	1940 US Census	
89	906 Broadway		Allison Campbell (head)	32	Bookkeeper, Telegraph	Canada English	1940 US Census	
89	906 Broadway		Thelma Campbell (wife)	28		Massachusetts	1940 US Census	
89	906 Broadway		Ruth Campbell (daughter)	2		Massachusetts	1940 US Census	
	Plan Book 39/Plan 40, Lots 46 & 47	O	Howard A. Baker & Margaret R. Baker				1946 Deed 3934/418	from David D. Nissenbaum, Executor of Estate of William Wolfe
	908 Broadway		H. Baker				1946-2-725 Building Permit	Reshingle over pres asphalt roof w/ asphalt
	906 Broadway	O	Robert T. Foster & Phyllis O. Foster				1952 Deed 7928/397	from Howard A. Baker & ux
	908 Broadway		R. Foster				1959-2-279 Building Permit	Install 2 dormer 1 10' and 1 12'

[illegible]