



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

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**STEP 2: DETERMINATION OF PREFERABLY PRESERVED  
STAFF REPORT**

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**Site:** 17 Allen Street

**Case:** HPC.DMO 2021.32

**Applicant:** 13-17 Allen St, LLC

**Owner:** Saul A. Rivera

**Legal Ad:** *Demolish principal structure*

**HPC Meeting Date:** February 15, 2022



The purpose of a staff report is to provide the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) with additional information and professional assessments regarding properties that are proposed for demolition. These assessments are based on the criteria allowed for consideration by the HPC in accordance with the Demolition Review Ordinance (DRO). A Staff Report is not a determination/decision, nor does it constitute authorization in any form.

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**I. SUMMARY OF December 14, 2021 MEETING**

At their regular public meeting on December 14th, 2021, the HPC declared the structure at 17 Allen Street to be “Historically Significant”. Due to this determination, 17 Allen Street moved on to the second step in the demolition review process, which calls for the HPC to determine whether or not the building should be “Preferably Preserved”. A determination of “preferably preserved” does not permanently halt demolition of a building.

## II. BUILDINGS UNDER CONSIDERATION

The building at 17 Allen Street is a 1 ½-story, side-gabled residential structure. 17 Allen Street was constructed at some time between 1884 and 1895.

*Right: 17 Allen St*



*Right: Left Elevation*



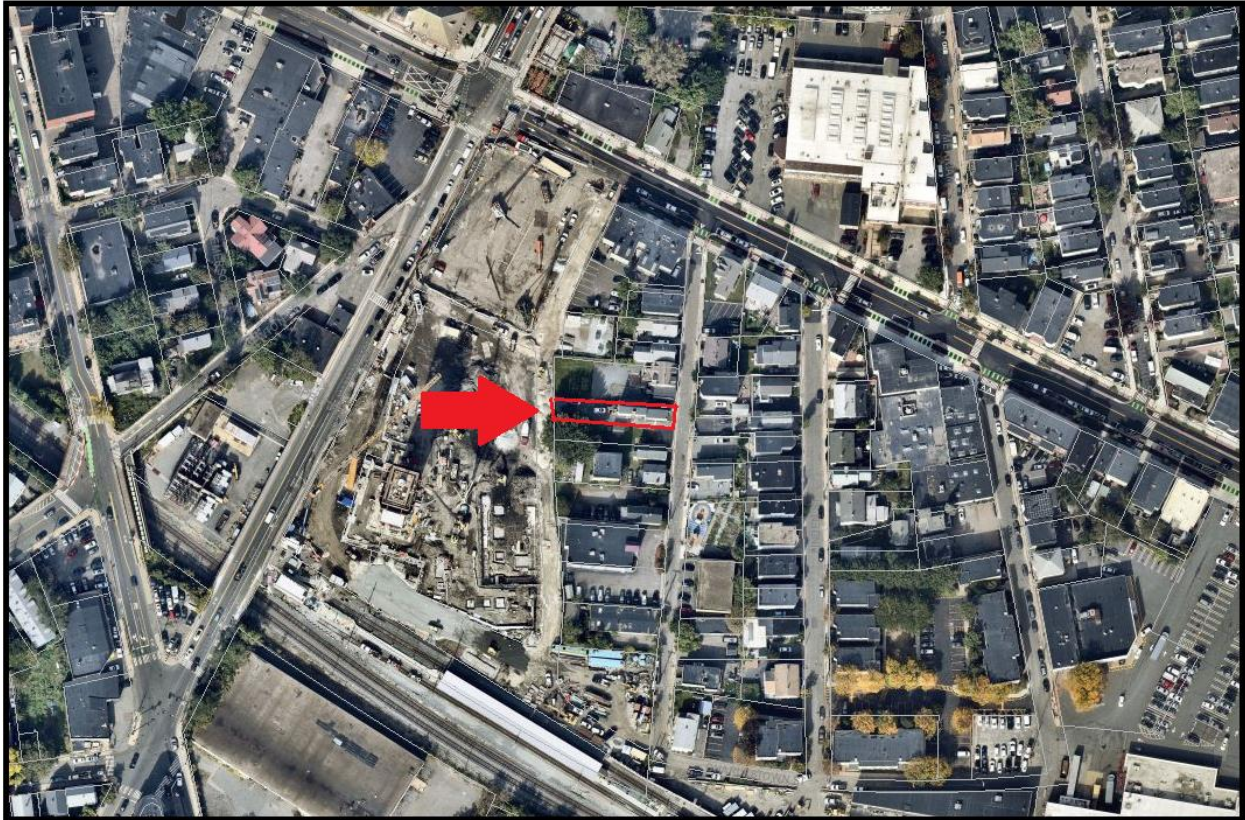
*Right: Rear*



*Right: Right Elevation*







*Above: Context Map for 17 Allen Street.*

### **III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Preservation Planning has not uncovered any additional information in the intervening weeks since the Historic Significance vote.

To see the historic maps and research regarding structure at 17 Allen St and a general history of the area, see the December 14, 2021, staff report on Historic Significance.

### **IV. DETERMINATION**

The HPC must determine one of the following for the structure at 17 Allen Street:

- a. That the building is Preferably Preserved.
- b. That the building is not Preferably Preserved.
- c. That the building is not Preferably Preserved *with Conditions*.

See the following section V “Findings” for guidance

(Continued on next page)

## V. **FINDINGS**

The HPC need to make determinations of whether the structure is to be preferably preserved and adopt findings.



17 Allen Street

### a. **Preferably Preserved**

For a determination of **preferably preserved**, the HPC must make the following finding:

- *That the demolition of the structure at **17 Allen Street** would be detrimental to the architectural, cultural, political, economic, or social heritage of the City.*

If the HPC makes the above finding, the Commission must state their reasons why they take either position.

### b. **Not Preferably Preserved**

If the HPC makes the above finding, the Commission must state their reasons why they take either position.

### c. **Not Preferably Preserved with Conditions**

For a determination of **NOT preferably preserved with Conditions**, the HPC must make the following finding:

- *That the structure at **17 Allen Street** do not meet any of the criteria to be “preferably preserved.”. The HPC may add any or all of the following as conditions to this determination:*
  1. *photographic documentation of the building to be demolished;*
  2. *architectural renderings of the building to be demolished;*
  3. *identification of materials for salvage of material; and/or,*
  4. *a plan for installation of historic or interpretive signage at or near the site.*

If the HPC makes the above finding, the HPC must state their reasons why they take this position.

## **VI. VOTE**

When bringing the matter to a vote, the HPC must include the reasons why the structure at ***17 Allen Street*** is or is not “preferably preserved”.