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**MAYOR'S OFFICE OF STRATEGIC PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**  
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**STEP 1: DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
**STAFF REPORT**

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**Site:** 13 Clyde Street

**Case:** HPC.DMO 2020-20

**Applicant:** Scott Zink

**Owner:** Clyde St., LLC/Scott Zink

**Proposal:** *Demolish principal structure.*

**HPC Meeting Date:** September 15, 2020

**Top:** *Front elevation*

**Bottom l – r:** *Left elevation, right elevation, rear elevation*



The subject building is found in a neighborhood of similar buildings known as brickworkers' houses that were constructed on the site of a brickyard once owned by Asa Murdock.

The 1869 Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge Directory lists Daniel Hoar, a hostler for John R. Poor of Stickney and Poor Spice Manufacturers. By 1874, the property has expanded and is shown to be owned by D. Hoer or Hoar. The 1880 Census Directories list Daniel Hoar, horse trader living in a house on Clyde Street near Cedar with John Hoar, Clerk at C.A. Small and Company, Broadway.



The Clyde-Murdock Street area was developed as a small neighborhood of brickyard worker's houses. The extensive yards of the Boston Brick Company were situated on Cedar Street, adjacent to the residential development. These simple houses are distinctive because of their high brick foundations and three-bay facades.

Asa Murdock developed some of the property in this area. A Cambridge trader and land speculator, his Cambridge brickyards near Concord and Huron Avenues were described as the first to "incorporate house lots for brickyard laborers, creating a miniature village in which worker's homes were set behind those of

the brickyard owners."<sup>1</sup> In Somerville, this pattern was not the case (no brickyard owner seems to have lived nearby) but the small cottages nevertheless formed a workers' community.

## **II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The building is a mid-nineteenth century brickworker's house in the Clyde-Murdock Street area. A sloped-roof addition has been added to the rear of the building. Despite this addition, the original gable-sided main portion of the structure reads clearly

The high brick foundation of the brickworker's house would have been used here as a first story wall. The three-bay facade with central entry, approached by a flight of stairs, is characteristic of the type. The building is unadorned; these residences were not constructed to have elaborate detail. The building retains these key pre-Civil War workers' house characteristics.

The simple worker's cottage at 13 Clyde Street retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The structure is representative of a building type that used to be found much more commonly in several locations in Somerville (in all cases, near the sites of former brickyards with whom the occupants of these houses were associated), 13 Clyde Street is a well-preserved example.

*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.*

The period of relevance for the house starts before the Civil War, roughly 1850-1860.

- a. Location: The structure is in its original location.
- b. Design: Original structure is a 1.5-story side-gabled, wood-framed worker's house with a high brick foundation. A high staircase provides center-entry access. Front façade is three bays wide. Windows at foundation level. Windows symmetrically placed under each side gable and on story below.
- c. Materials: Wood frame; brick foundation; currently vinyl-sided; replacement windows; asphalt shingle roof.
- d. Alterations: Vinyl siding added; windows replaced; rear addition; enclosed front entry.

*Evaluation of Integrity*: The building retains clear integrity of original form and massing; gable returns remain present as well some original window locations; brick foundation

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<sup>1</sup> *Survey of Northwest Cambridge; Cambridge Historical Commission, 1977, p. 51*

### **III. FINDINGS**

*For a Determination of Significance, the subject building must be found either (i) importantly associated with people, events or history and/or (ii) historically or architecturally significant (Ordinance 2003-05, Section 2.17.B, i-ii). The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) must make these findings. The portions of the Demolition Review Ordinance (DRO) related to these findings are included below:*

#### **A. HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

*2003-05, Section 2.17.B, 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.*

1. The HPC must make a finding as to whether or not the building at 13 Clyde Street meets any of the criteria stated above.
2. The HPC must specifically state why the building at 13 Clyde Street does or does not meet the threshold for historic significance under finding “i”.

#### **B. HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*2003-05, Section 2.17.B, ii*

*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, and therefore it is in the public interest to be preserved or rehabilitated rather than to be demolished.*

1. The HPC must make a finding as to whether or not the building at 13 Clyde Street meets any of the criteria stated above.
2. The HPC must specifically state why the building at 13 Clyde Street does or does not meet the threshold for historic significance under finding “ii”.

### **IV. VOTE**

When bringing the matter to a vote, the HPC must include the reasons why the building at 13 Clyde Street is or is not “historically significant”.

Census Location (#)	Plotted Land	O/R	Name	Age/Birth Date	Occupation	Place of Birth	Immigration Year	Source	Notes
49	13 Clyde St		Daniel Hoar (head)	48 / abt 1832	Horse Trainer	Ireland		1880 US Census	
50	13 Clyde St		Eliza Hoar (wife)	45 / abt 1835	Keeping House	Ireland		1880 US Census	
51	13 Clyde St		Elizabeth Hoar (daughter)	17 / 1863	Scholar	Massachusetts		1880 US Census	
52	13 Clyde St		John Hoar (son)	16 / 1864	Hostler	Massachusetts		1880 US Census	
53	13 Clyde St		Daniel Hoar (son)	14 / 1866	Scholar	Massachusetts		1880 US Census	
54	13 Clyde St		James Hoar (son)	11 / 1869	Scholar	Massachusetts		1880 US Census	
55	13 Clyde St		George Hoar (son)	7 / 1873	Scholar	Massachusetts		1880 US Census	
									Can Read:Yes Can Write:Yes Can Speak English:Yes House Owned or Rented:O Home Free or Mortgaged:M Farm or House:H
70	13 Clyde St	O	Daniel Hoar (head)	66 / 1834	Milkman	Ireland	1839	1900 US Census	
71	13 Clyde St		Eliza Hoar (wife)	60 / 1839		Ireland	1845	1900 US Census	
72	13 Clyde St		Daniel Hoar (nephew)	9 / 1891	Student	Massachusetts		1900 US Census	
51	13 Clyde St		Daniel Hoar (head)		73	Ireland		1910 US Census	
52	13 Clyde St		Eliza Hoar (wife)		71	Ireland		1910 US Census	
53	13 Clyde St		Daniel Hoar (Grandson)		20 Odd jobs	Massachusetts		1910 US Census	
54	13 Clyde St	R	John Slattery (head)		68 Own Income	Ireland		1910 US Census	
55	13 Clyde St		Mary Slattery (sister)		73 Own Income	Ireland		1910 US Census	
									Home Value:3000 Radio Set:Yes Lives on Farm:No Age at first Marriage:30 Attended School:No Able to Read and Write:Yes Father's Birthplace:Maine Mother's Birthplace:Maine Able to Speak English:Yes Veteran:Yes War:E W
5	13 Clyde St	O	Isaiah Hunnewell (head)	77 / abt 1853		Maine		1930 US Census	
									Attended School:No Able to Read and Write:Yes Father's Birthplace:Sweden Mother's Birthplace:Sweden Language Spoken:Swedish Immigration Year:1897 Naturalization:Naturalized Able to Speak English:Yes Occupation:House Work Industry:Private Homes Class of Worker:Wage or salary worker Employment:Yes
6	13 Clyde St		Virginia Hunnewell (wife)	55 / abt 1875	House work	Sweden		1930 US Census	
7	13 Clyde St		George Hunnewell (son)	22 / abt 1908	Cutter at Carstain Factory	Massachusetts		1930 US Census	
8	13 Clyde St		Linnie Hunnewell (daughter)	17 / abt 1913	Press feeder at Book Co	Massachusetts		1930 US Census	
9	13 Clyde St		Frances Hunnewell (son)	13 / abt 1917				1930 US Census	
									Attended School:No
10	13 Clyde St	R	Patrick McLaughlin (head)	23 / abt 1907	Ship Fireman	Virginia		1930 US Census	Attended School:No Able to Read and Write:Yes Father's Birthplace:Scotland Mother's Birthplace:Scotland
11	13 Clyde St		Lilian McLaughlin (wife)	23 / abt 1907		Massachusetts		1930 US Census	Attended School:No Able to Read and Write:Yes Father's Birthplace:Maine Mother's Birthplace:Sweden Able to Speak English:Yes
13	Clyde St	R	Lilian McLaughlin (head)		33	Massachusetts		1940 US Census	Highest Grade Completed:High School, 1st year
	13 Clyde St		Elizabeth McLaughlin (daughter)		9 Student	Massachusetts		1940 US Census	Highest Grade Completed:Elementary school, 4th grade
	13 Clyde St		William McLaughlin (son)		7 Student	Massachusetts		1940 US Census	Highest Grade Completed:Elementary school, 2nd grade
	13 Clyde St		George McLaughlin (son)		3	Massachusetts		1940 US Census	
	13 Clyde St		Edward McLaughlin (son)		1	Massachusetts		1940 US Census	
	13 Clyde St		James Kilrain		Chauffeur (boards)			1915 City Directory	
	13 Clyde St		John Kilrain		puglist			1915 City Directory	
	13 Clyde St		Edward Brown		Machinist			1927 City Directory	Wife: Mildred
	13 Clyde St		Augustine P McDonough		Chauffeur			1920 City Directory	Wife: Nora
	13 Clyde St		Patrick Murphy		Laborer			1925 City Directory	
	13 Clyde St		Alice Gough	feb. 24 1898		Worcester		1920 US Passport Application	