



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

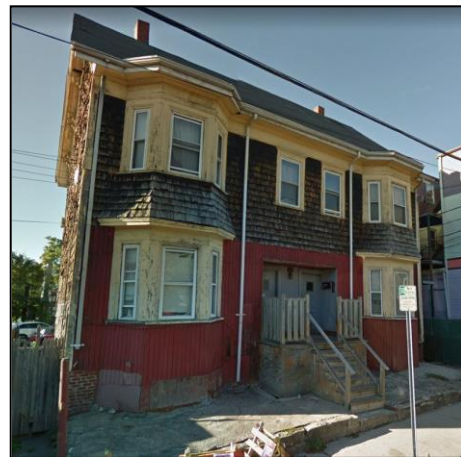
MICHAEL F. GLAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE STAFF REPORT

Site: 3-5 Hawkins Street
Historical Name: *Sturtevant House*
Case: HPC 2018.073
Applicant Name: Scott Zink
Owner Name: Rose G. Pisari
Date of Application: July 3, 2018
Recommendation: Italianate structure: **Significant**

Hearing Date: August 21, 2018



I. Historical Significance

There are two steps in the Somerville Demolition Review process: determine historic significance. A building or structure may be determined “historically significant” if it is found to have important associations with people/events/history and/or is historically or architecturally significant. The ordinance states specifically that: “*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).*”

II. Findings for Historical Significance

With regard to the historical significance of 3-5 Hawkins Street, Staff finds that the Italianate building is significant with regard to **Criterion B, Historical & Architectural significance.**

(b) historically or architecturally significant (Ordinance 2003-05, Section 2.17.B).”

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 site contains two structures: a small, one-story, brick, Colonial Revival-style structure (c.1925) and a larger, two-story concrete-block building with a clapboard façade.

Italianate Structure c. 1852-1874

The Sturtevant House is a gable-ended, Italianate residential structure that was originally constructed as a duplex. The structure is a two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood frame residential structure presenting a symmetric main elevation to the public way. The center entrance is recessed and flanked by two-story bay windows on its right and left sides. A wide cornice ornaments the roof along the eaves. Paired brackets are present at the gabled ends. Three brick chimney stacks punctuate the roof. This property is one of a large number of duplexes constructed in this part of Union Square during the 1852-1874 period.

3-5 Hawkins Street first appears on the 1874 Hopkins map, consisting of a duplex and two warehouses, owned by H., G., F., and R. Sturtevant. The Sturtevant brothers owned a provisions store in Union Square, so the warehouses were likely used to store their merchandise. By 1895, the duplex at 3-5 Hawkins Street was on a separate lot from the warehouses, denoted 9 Hawkins Street. The 1933-1934 Sanborn map lists 9 Hawkins Street as 1-5 Lake Street, with three buildings on it — a residence, a waste paper storage building, and a five stall concrete building. The 1950 Sanborn indicates that 9 Hawkins Street was then designated 3-5 Lake Street, and the paper storage building was no longer extant. Today, the lots for 3-5 Hawkins Street and 9 Hawkins Street are again joined under a single owner. The current auto repair garage at the corner of Lake and Hawkins streets was constructed after 1950 (Bromley 1895; Hopkins 1874, 1884; Sanborn 1900, 1933, 1950).

The 1874 City Directory lists George F. Sturtevant (1839-1894) and his mother Hannah Sturtevant, a widow, as residing in the duplex. Hazen and Ralph Sturtevant both lived with Hannah, indicating that George may have been residing in one of the units with his own family. George was born in Center Harbor, NH, and came to Somerville at the age of 20, working for Richard Sturtevant, also originally of Center Harbor, NH; the relation between the two men is unclear. However, by 1896, it appears that the duplex was used to generate rental income, with numerous working-class families listed at this residence in city directories. Today, the duplex continues to be a rental property, consisting of four apartments, two in each half of the duplex. The current owner, Rose Pisari, a resident of Stoneham, acquired the entire property in 1961. It is likely that the windows were replaced during the Pisari occupation (Greenough 1874, 1880, 1895; Somerville Assessor 2016; Samuels 1897:629-630).

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: This building has existed in its current location since its construction.
- b. Design: Italianate
- c. Materials: Wood frame, brick foundation, wood clapboarding
- d. Evaluation of Integrity: This Italianate structure maintains a significant amount of architectural integrity in terms of architectural components (two-story bays, cornice, brackets, recessed center entrance).

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.

Based on the analysis provided above, Staff recommends that the HPC determine the Italianate structure at 3-5 Hawkins Street to be **HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT** based on the findings in Section II of this staff report.

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

74-B-17, 74-B-18A

Boston
North

SMV.1390,
SMV.1391

Town/City: Somerville

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Union Square

Address: 3–5 Hawkins Street

Historic Name: Sturtevant House

Uses: Present: Multiple Family Dwelling, Service Station

Original: Multiple Family Dwelling, Warehouse

Date of Construction: 1852–1874, 1955–1969

Source: Draper 1852, Hopkins 1874, historic aerials

Style/Form: Italianate

Architect/Builder:

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Brick

Wall/Trim: Wood Shingle

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures: Auto repair shop (1955–1969), secondary garage

Major Alterations (*with dates*): Windows replaced late 20th century

Condition: Fair

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

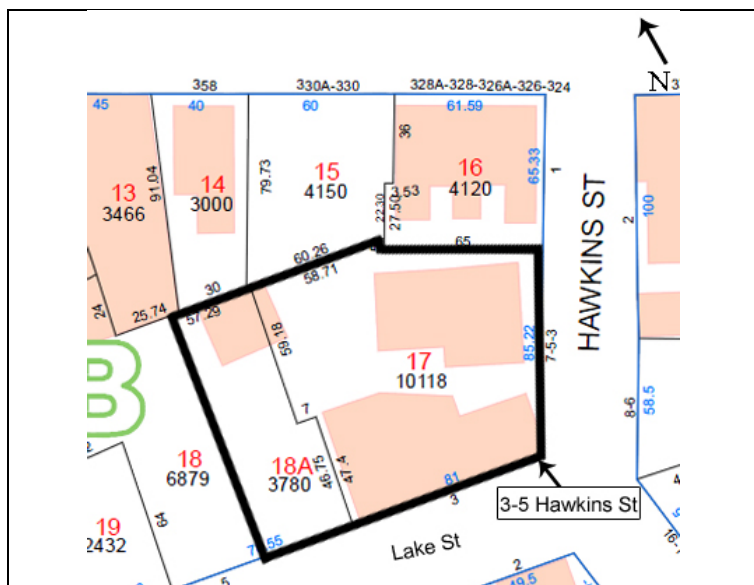
Acreage: 0.32

Setting: The building faces southeast towards a sidewalk at the intersection of Lake and Hawkins streets. It is within a densely developed urban neighborhood surrounded by residential buildings. The main building is surrounded by automotive-related secondary resources.

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: V. Adams, G. Pineo, C. Barry, M. Andrade, PAL

Organization: City of Somerville, OSPCD, Planning Division

Date: May 2016

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

SOMERVILLE

3–5 Hawkins Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

SMV.1390,
SMV.1391

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The property at 3–5 Hawkins Street, at the northern corner of Hawkins and Lake streets, encompasses three buildings: a multiple-family dwelling constructed between 1852 and 1874, and two secondary buildings: an automotive repair shop constructed between 1955 and 1969, and a smaller secondary garage. The dwelling sits along the northeast edge of the property line and faces southeast onto Hawkins Street. Southwest of the dwelling is the repair shop, seated at the corner of Hawkins and Lake Streets. The secondary garage is in the north corner of the property, and is accessed via a narrow dirt lane, opposite Olive Square. The lot, surrounded by chain link and wooden palisade fencing, is bare except for small trees along the northwest property line; the rear portion of the lot is gravel.

The Sturtevant House (SMV.1390), a multiple-family dwelling at 3–5 Hawkins Street is an Italianate-style, two-story, three-bay-by-two-bay, wood-frame building with a symmetric southeast (facade) elevation. The building is rectangular with a rear ell, is seated on a brick foundation, and is topped with a side gable roof. The symmetric main elevation consists of a recessed center entrance flanked by two-story bay windows. The entrance, accessed by a set of wood stairs leading to a wood porch surrounded by a vertical board balustrade, consists of a pair of wood doors each with a square window with simple surround at the top and two concentric square panels below. An end-gable ell projects off the center of the northwest elevation. The first story of the main elevation is clad with vertical boards, and the remainder of the building is clad with painted wood shingles. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, and is ornamented with a wide cornice along the eaves and paired brackets in the gable ends. Three brick chimneys pierce the center ridge line of the roof, one each on the northwest and southeast ends of the main block, and in the center of the ell. Fenestration consists of one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum sash with simple wood surrounds and narrow sills, installed in the late 20th century..

The repair shop (SMV.1391) is an astylistic, one-story, two-bay-by-six-bay, parged concrete masonry unit building with an asymmetric east (facade) elevation. The building is approximately L-shaped with an angled northeast elevation, is seated on a poured concrete foundation, and has a flat roof clad with rolled rubber. Three garage bays, one on the east elevation and a pair at the north end of the south elevation, are filled with vertical-lift, six-panel doors. A personnel-size door is south of the paired garage doors. A wide signboard, hung under the cornice, spans the east elevation. Fenestration consists of four-, eight-, and nine-pane casement windows with narrow surrounds and thick sills. The repair shop was built on the site of warehouses which were constructed between 1852 and 1874 for the Sturtevant Brothers grocery store in Union Square. The warehouses were no longer extant by 1933.

The secondary garage consists of a small, rectangular building constructed of concrete masonry units and topped with a flat roof, which is covered with rolled rubber. A rolling-lift metal door fills the south elevation. A small wood addition, covered with vines, is attached to the southeast elevation.

The dwelling, constructed as a duplex, is one of a large number of duplexes constructed in this part of Union Square, particularly along Lake Street. It is more ornamented than others in the immediate vicinity, including 1–3 Olive Square (SMV.1407 and SMV.1408) and 2–4 Olive Square (SMV.1409 and SMV.1410), which were constructed as part of a significant increase in housing in the last quarter of the 19th century.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Union Square is the oldest and largest commercial area in Somerville, and its growth is tied to the residential and commercial growth of the City. Since the 17th century, the area has been the site of commercial establishments serving travelers and tradespeople. Transportation improvements in the early part of the 19th century enabled further development in the area to support the rapidly growing population. Following the Civil War, local entrepreneurs established lucrative businesses in the Square and constructed numerous ambitious buildings. By the early 20th century, Union Square was a critical hub for automobile traffic, and it

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

SOMERVILLE

3-5 Hawkins Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

SMV.1390,
SMV.1391

continued to develop commercially, adding auto-related enterprises to the mix. Today Union Square is one of two major commercial centers in Somerville, along with Davis Square, consisting primarily of locally owned restaurants, shops, and professional offices.

3-5 Hawkins Street first appears on the 1874 Hopkins map, consisting of a duplex and two warehouses, owned by H., G., F., and R. Sturtevant. The Sturtevant brothers owned a provisions store in Union Square, so the warehouses were likely used to store their merchandise. By 1895, the duplex at 3-5 Hawkins Street was on a separate lot from the warehouses, denoted 9 Hawkins Street. The 1933-1934 Sanborn map lists 9 Hawkins Street as 1-5 Lake Street, with three buildings on it — a residence, a waste paper storage building, and a five stall concrete building. The 1950 Sanborn indicates that 9 Hawkins Street was then designated 3-5 Lake Street, and the paper storage building was no longer extant. Today, the lots for 3-5 Hawkins Street and 9 Hawkins Street are again joined under a single owner. The current auto repair garage at the corner of Lake and Hawkins streets was constructed after 1950 (Bromley 1895; Hopkins 1874, 1884; Sanborn 1900, 1933, 1950).

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INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

SOMERVILLE

3-5 Hawkins Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s)	Form No.
	SMV.1390, SMV.1391

PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 2. Facade of the house, looking northwest.



Photo 3. East and south elevations of the repair shop, looking northwest.