



CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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December 28, 2016

To: Members of the Historical Commission
From: Charles Sullivan
Re: 207 and 227 Cambridge St., Updated Evaluation for Landmark Designation Study

Background

The Historical Commission held a hearing on December 1 in part to consider whether to initiate a landmark designation study for the buildings at 207 and 227 Cambridge Street. This was in conformance with the Commission's practice of holding a hearing in the fifth month of a demolition delay to consider whether to initiate designation studies for buildings previously found to be significant and preferably-preserved. The hearing also considered the owner's request to find both buildings no longer preferably preserved in the context of a revised replacement project that would raze 207 and incorporate 227 Cambridge Street.

Coincidentally, on November 23, 2016, the Commission received petitions requesting the initiation of landmark designation studies of the buildings at 207 and 227 Cambridge Street. The Commission acknowledged receipt of the petitions on December 1 and voted to hold a public hearing on January 5 to decide whether to accept them.

On December 1 the Commission voted to find 207 Cambridge Street no longer preferably preserved in the context of the new development proposal. The Commission also voted to initiate a landmark study of 227 Cambridge Street.

Recommendation

These actions resolved the issues raised by the citizen petitions to initiate landmark designation studies for 207 and 227 Cambridge Street. In the case of 207, the Commission's decision to find the building no longer preferably preserved cleared the way for demolition. In the case of 227, the Commission initiated a landmark designation study in the course of its routine procedures. The effect of these actions will be to protect 227 Cambridge Street while the replacement project is allowed to proceed. The building at 207, however, cannot be demolished until the replacement project is ready to proceed.

I recommend that the Commission decline the petitions for the reasons stated.

cc: James Rafferty, Esq.