



STAFF REPORT

Town of Wellesley - Planning Department

Application: DR-2018-53 – 51 Smith Street - Preservation Determination
Subject Property: 51 Smith Street (Assessor's Parcel ID # 88-3)
Applicant: Joseph and Donna Indresano
Property Owner: Joseph and Donna Indresano
Date: Report prepared 12/3/2018 for 12/10/2018 Historical
Commission Meeting
Staff Contact: Claudia Zarazua, Planner
Staff Recommendation: **Preferably Preserved**

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Applications for Eligibility Notice and Preservation Determination were submitted on November 8, 2018 indicating the intent to demolish, in its entirety, a building located on the property and used as a dwelling. An Eligibility Notice was issued on November 15, 2018 determining the subject building to be an Eligible Building. A public hearing before the Historical Commission is scheduled for December 10, 2018.

DESCRIPTION

In consideration of the application for Eligibility Notice, it was determined that the dwelling was originally constructed no later than 1918 when a house was first reported as built on lot 71 on Smith Street under the ownership of Prisco Indresano.

Prisco Indresano acquired the land from Peter Fiorini in 1914. The original lot was created in 1841 when Dan Ayer, a local developer, bought a large plot of land and subdivided it. (See Figure 1). After Mr. Indresano passed away, the house was acquired by Albert Indresano (trustee of the Alres Nominee Trust) in 1983. Under the ownership of the Alres Nominee Trust, the house was sold to Rosemary Indresano and Joanne McKeage in 2012. In 2014, the house was acquired by the current owners, Joseph and Donna Indresano.

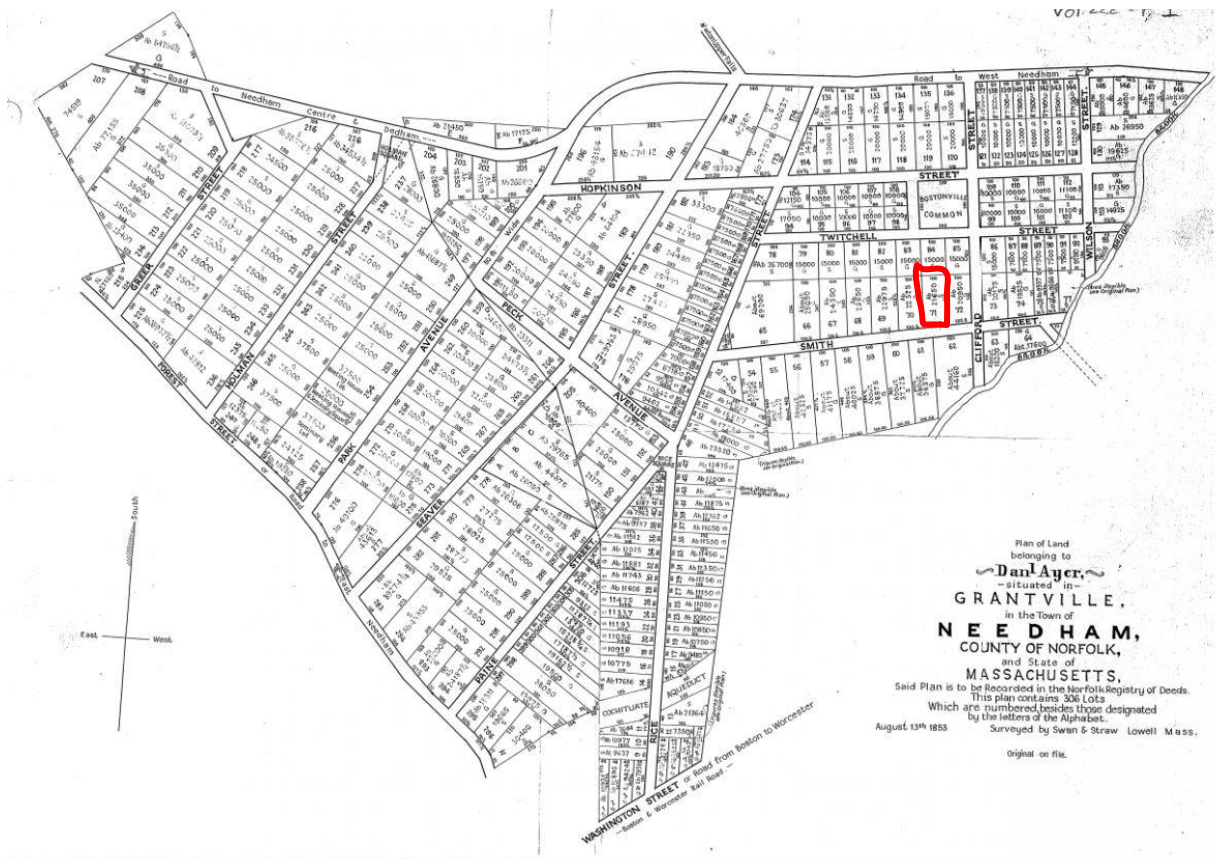


Figure 1. Plan of Land belonging to Dan Iyer, 1853, Norfolk County Registry of Deeds

According to building permit records, no building permits have been filed for alterations. However, minor modifications can be perceived from the street and photographs.

The dwelling is a two-story American Foursquare house with overhanging hipped roof. It features exposed rafter tails and has matching single window dormers. Remnants of the typical wrap around porch are still visible although it is now completely enclosed. Staff believes the original architecture of the house is best characterized as part of the Colonial Revival family with minimal modifications. This was a prominent style of the original neighborhood and some can still be seen along Smith Street.

The house is a nonconforming structure and sits on a conforming lot of 21,650 square feet. The building is sited on the eastern corner of the property and the driveway is located at the center of the lot. (See Figure 2).

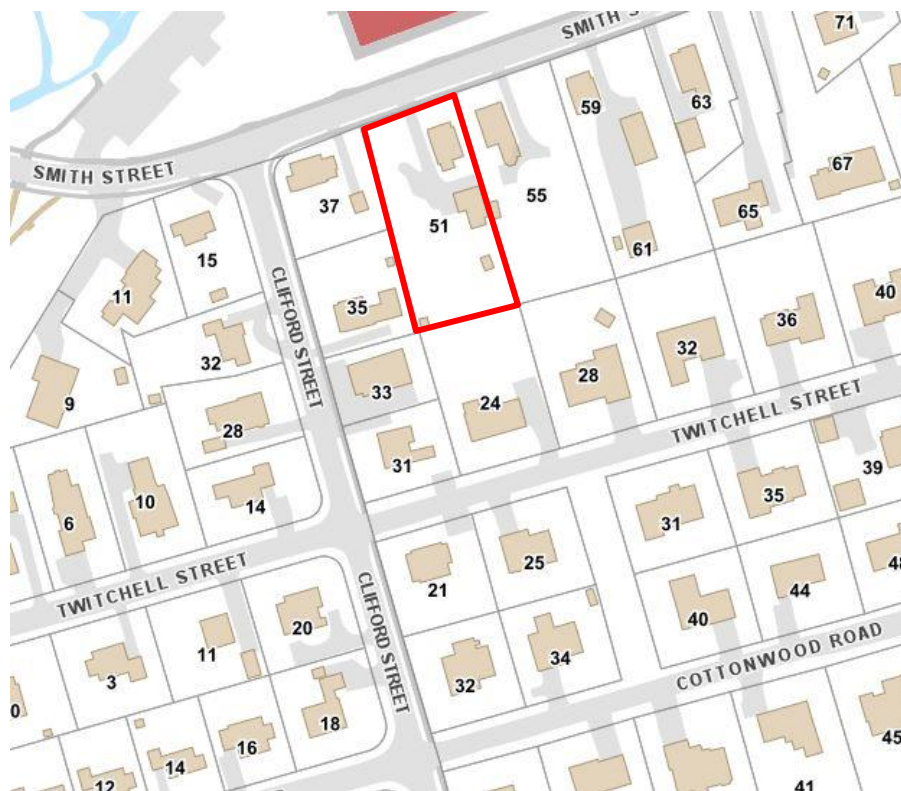


Figure 2. Neighborhood Context

PRESERVATION DETERMINATION STANDARDS

In consideration of a Preservation Determination for the building, the Historical Commission is to determine whether or not the building should be Preferably Preserved, a term defined as a building “the demolition of which that is proposed...would be detrimental to the historical or architectural heritage of the Town because such Building is (i) importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the Town, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the United States of America, (ii) historically or architecturally important by reason of period, style, method of building construction or association with a particular architect or builder, either by itself or in the context of a group of Buildings, or (iii) located within one hundred fifty (150) feet of the boundary line of any federal or local historic district and contextually similar to the Buildings located in the adjacent federal or local historic district.”

If the Commission determines that the Building should be Preferably Preserved, then no Demolition Permit with respect to such Building shall be issued until twelve (12) months after the date of the Preservation Determination.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff is of the opinion that the subject building is (i) associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the Town, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the United States of America, (ii) historically or architecturally important by reason of period, style, method of building

construction or association with a particular architect or builder, either by itself or in the context of a group of Buildings, but that the building **is not** (iii) located within one hundred fifty (150) feet of the boundary line of any federal or local historic district and contextually similar to the Buildings located in the adjacent federal or local historic district.

With respect to standard (i), Staff is of the opinion that the existing dwelling is significant because it is importantly associated with one or more historic persons or events, or with the architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the Town. This building is one of the remaining structures representative of the original Italian immigrant neighborhood. The Reliance Club, on 33 Clifford, housed the first “Italian Men’s Club” in Wellesley. According to an article from the Townsman, the club was created in 1918 with the purpose of providing educational and social activities for Italian families. The neighborhood was a typical working-class enclave composed of builders, carpenters, masons, cobblers, bakers, and gardeners. According to a 1980 letter from the Wellesley Historical Commission, gardeners from the neighborhood were hired by Walter Hunnewell for the design and maintenance of his Italian Gardens.

With respect to standard (ii), Staff is of the opinion that the existing dwelling is architecturally important by reason of period and style, by itself and in the context of the neighborhood. Staff believes that the publically visible facades of the dwelling are original in their form, and the dwelling is consistent with the period and style of the original neighborhood.

Therefore, based upon the above, Therefore, based upon the above, **Staff is of the opinion that demolition of the subject building would be detrimental to the historical or architectural heritage of the Town and recommends that the Historical Commission determine that the building be deemed Preferably Preserved.**

RELIANCE CLUB DEDICATION

Town and State Officials Present

Town and State were well represented at the dedication of the new Reliance club home on Clifford street, Wellesley, Monday of this week the speakers for the occasion were: Ex. Senator Casassa of Revere, H. R. Gary, chairman of the board of Selectmen of Wellesley, Charles N. Taylor, president of the Wellesley National Bank and Isaac Sprague, Jr.

The dedication of this new building means much to Wellesley, the members of the Reliance Club for nearly eight years, in temporary quarters, have saved for their building fund, and with the completion of this new home the first of February, their goal was realized.

Dedication ceremonies started at ten o'clock, Monday morning, President Frank Gallorani presiding and giving the speech of introduction in which he outlined the purposes and aims of the Reliance Club. He then introduced selectman H. R. Gary who spoke of his interest in the club, his pleasure in its advance to its present position and of the good it was capable of doing the Italian residents of Wellesley. Mr. Charles N. Taylor, the next speaker, told how highly Wellesley's Italian residents were rated at the Wellesley bank. With a few pleasantries and good wishes for the welfare of the organization Mr. Taylor closed his remarks to be followed by Isaac Sprague, Jr., who was then introduced. Mr. Sprague stated that he was deeply interested in the future development of the club. He remarked on the growth of the Margus Club at Wellesley Hills of which he is a charter member, of its success and wished that the Reliance Club might have a parallel rise as it deserves on the principles for which it was founded.

As Ex. Senator Casassa, the next speaker scheduled had not arrived, Geo. Sweetser of Wellesley Hills, attorney for the Club was introduced. Mr. Sweetser told of the club's by-

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that bring sunshine in on the gloomiest day, that express your sentiments as nothing else can—the finest of gifts.

Fine specimens are now in flower right in our own greenhouses. And in excellent values too.

Fraser
THE FLORET
66 Linden Street, Wellesley
Telephone WJ 2517

WELLESLEY CLUB TALK

Fifty members and guests assembled at Hotel Westminster, on Tuesday evening, February 24.

The usual pre Town Meeting topic—"Town Affairs" failed to bring out anything of a sensational nature—and soon settled down to a serious discussion of facts and figures relating to Department management. Mr. John Decrow President of the Club presided in his usual happy and genial manner.

Mr. H. R. Gary, chairman of The Board of Selectmen, discussed at some length the articles in the Warrant calling for appropriations of interest to the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Edward Dewing, Chairman of the Advisory Committee presented a comparison of Department expenses, ten years ago with the present cost to conduct our Town Departments.

This might well discount, that the Committee is preparing to "Sit on the Lid," however, this is the privilege if not duty of every Advisory Committee. Mr. Wm. H. Hood, Jr., spoke on the requirements of the Water Department and Mr. Charles Fuller on the situation in the Electric Light Department.

Mr. George Ager expressed full satisfaction with conditions on Beacon Hill and stated that he finds a very high grade of men constituting the present Legislature. That they deserve the full confidence of the public.

Mr. John Decrow announced that there would be one more hearing on the Town Zoning Ordinance before it comes up to the town for its action.

HOLY NAME SOCIETY HOLDS FIRST ENTERTAINMENT

A successful evening of fun for both men and women, featured the first party of the year, given under the auspices of the Holy Name Society of the St. John's Church, at Newton Lower Falls. The party, at which whist and "45" were the principal forms of entertainment, was in charge of the officers of the Holy Name Society, a men's club. Music was furnished by Miss Gertrude Carman, at the piano, Miss Ellen McGrath, violin, and George Duffley, drums. Prizes were contributed by the storekeepers at the Falls. Following the card playing, an auction of cakes was held. These were made by the ladies of the church.