



STAFF REPORT

Town of Wellesley - Planning Department

Application: DR-17-07 - 64 Fuller Brook Road - Preservation Determination
Subject Property: 64 Fuller Brook Road (Assessor's Parcel ID # 79-14)
Applicant: Patrick and Harriet Collins
Property Owner: Patrick and Harriet Collins
Date: Report prepared 9/8/2017 for 9/11/2017 Historical Commission Meeting
Staff Contact: Michael Zehner, Planning Director
Staff Recommendation: **Not deemed Preferably Preserved**

APPLICATION OVERVIEW

Applications for Eligibility Notice and Preservation Determination were submitted on August 18, 2017 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 August 25, 2017 determining the subject building to be an Eligible Building. A public hearing before the Historical Commission was scheduled for September 11, 2017.

DESCRIPTION

In consideration of the application for Eligibility Notice, it was determined that the dwelling was originally constructed in 1941 (the Applicant/Owner indicated the construction date to be 1946, relying on the Assessors Property Record Card) based on a Building Permit issued to Orville Estates Trust on June 18, 1941; the home's builder was identified as Ralph O. Porter, Inc. The permit was preceded by the creation of the lot as part of a subdivision recorded at the Registry of Deeds in 1940 by the Orville Estates Trust.

The dwelling is a 2-story with gable roof. The architecture of the house is best characterized as Colonial Revival and, given the builder, is locally known as a "Porter Colonial." Based on building permit records, a chicken house was added to the property and the attached 1-car garage was expanded in 1943 (Sarah F. Beale, owner), a one-story "L" on the rear of the home was increased to two-stories in 1955 (Edmund Turnau, owner), a swimming pool was added in 1966 (Richard Heerde, owner), and a two-story addition was made to the rear in 1986 (current owner).

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 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 **not** (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, 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.

With respect to standard (ii), it appears that many of the homes in this neighborhood are typical of the various subtypes of the Colonial Revival era; however, perhaps not to the degree of justifying preservation of the subject building. Further, while Porter Colonial homes are commonly acknowledged, Staff does not believe they are necessarily architecturally important for this reason.

Therefore, based upon the above, **Staff is of the opinion that demolition of the subject building would not be detrimental to the historical or architectural heritage of the Town and recommends that the Historical Commission determine that the building should not be deemed Preferably Preserved.**