



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To James L. Sullivan, City Manager **Date** October 5, 1976

From Charles M. Sullivan, **Reference**
Historical Commission

Subject Council Order 17 - Status of Putnam School

David Vickery asked that I respond to your memo, as the Commission is the agency most recently involved with the Putnam School.

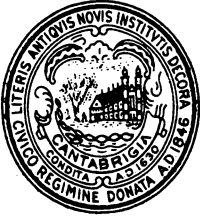
The School is at present completely secured from the weather, and all windows are boarded up. Although it was apparently condemned for use by school children, the building is structurally sound and all mechanical systems are intact. Minor leaks in the roof have caused some water damage in the upper floors, but this is not considered serious. Reuse of the building has been considered favorably by several architectural firms, and interest has been expressed by Better Cities, Inc., and Gelardin-Bruner-Cott, among others.

Disposition of the building has been discussed at length in the community, and the prevailing opinion seems to be that while demolition for a parking lot as proposed in 1975 would be regrettable, reuse for housing would have to be carefully planned to minimize the impact on the community. The most acceptable reuse seems to be for housing for the elderly, as this would require only minimal parking and would not introduce large numbers of new families.

In the fall of 1975, the Commission encouraged the Council of Elders and the Cambridge Housing Authority to submit proposals for such housing to H.U.D. under Section 202. Both proposals were rejected, although not because of any unsuitability of the building.

According to Harry Spence, the Cambridge Housing Authority is now considering use of the building for elderly housing under the Section 8 program. The Authority expects to reach a decision on their application by the end of October.

The Putnam School is important as a fine example of its type and as a major landmark in East Cambridge. It is structurally sound, and has an excellent potential for creative reuse. Demolition and construction of a parking lot would introduce a blighting influence in one of the City's most attractive neighborhoods for little apparent gain.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

October 18, 1976

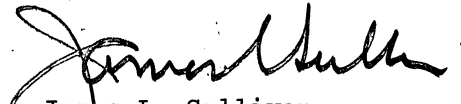
To the Honorable, the City Council:

Enclosed is a report on the status of the Putnam School in response to Awaiting Report No. 3 (Council Order No. 17, September 27, 1976).

As you can see the recommended use by the Historical Commission is for elderly housing. Such use is being actively considered by the Housing Authority.

The prior City Council is on record with two conflicting votes for use of this building, and it is my recommendation that this Council affirm one of the two proposed uses in order to resolve the issue.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

Response to Awaiting Report No. 3 re: to the status of the Putnam School.

10/10/76

Placed on File -

LeRaven requested Report
from the Administrators
regarding Housing for Putnam
School site and further
requested copy of two Council
In City Council,

October 18, 1976

Advised which Eggs

Indicated were conflicting