



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert Healy, City Manager **Date** 12/28/81

From Charles Sullivan, Historical Commission **Reference**

Subject University Place Demolitions

Summary

The proposal by Harvard to demolish two previously overlooked significant buildings for the University Place project appears to be nearly resolved by a compromise proposal that would leave one building in place and relocate the other to a site within the neighborhood. The Commission is expected to accept this proposal at its meeting on January 7 and the project will not be delayed on this account.

Background

Applications for demolition permits for the 19th century structures at 134 Mount Auburn Street and 3 Mount Auburn Place were received on November 20th. These buildings are located on a site to be developed by Gerald Hines Development Boston, Ltd., but are currently owned by the Mayfair Realty Trust and under lease to Harvard University, which holds an option to purchase at will. The large office/condominium development proposed for this site has already received approval of the Planning Board and concerned community groups, and construction is scheduled to begin in March. The applications for demolition permits were made at my suggestion, the developer being previously unaware of the significance of the buildings. It also appears that no member of the immediate neighborhood or the Ad Hoc Committee that approved the project was aware that any buildings would be demolished.

The Historical Commission met on December 3rd and found that the buildings were significant under the demolition ordinance, automatically delaying the demolition for six months. However, the Commission decided to put off consideration of a specific delay period until the regular meeting of January 7th because the developer indicated that a compromise was possible and because the residents of the neighborhood south of Mount Auburn Street had filed a petition for designation of

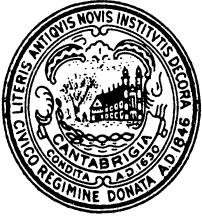
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that area as a neighborhood conservation district.

Since December 3rd, an intensive series of meetings have been held with the Ad Hoc Committee, including the Mayor, David Vickery, representatives of Neighborhoods 9 and 10, and the Harvard Square Defense Fund; representatives of the neighborhood south of Mount Auburn Street, who were not primarily included in the planning process; and Harvard University, Hines Development, and their architects. Thus far several alternatives that seem acceptable to all parties have been developed; all involve moving one of the houses, and none require major architectural changes to the development.

The Historical Commission will conclude its review of this matter on January 7th, when it is expected that Harvard, the neighborhood, the Ad Hoc Committee, and the Commission staff will present a proposal that will preserve the buildings and permit the University Place project to go ahead as planned and on schedule. The neighborhood conservation district proposal will then be studied over the winter, but if enacted will not affect University Place.

cc: David Vickery



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
Tel. 498-9011

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
ROBERT W. HEALY
City Manager

December 28, 1981

To the Honorable, the City Council:

With respect to Awaiting Report Item No. 11 relative to the status of buildings of historical significance at the premises numbered 134 Mount Auburn Street and 3 Mount Auburn Place, enclosed please find copy of a report from Charles Sullivan of the Historical Commission.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mbf
Enc.

Agenda Item Number Five

S-699

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item No. 11
regarding buildings of historical significance
at the premises numbered 134 Mt. Auburn Street
and 3 Mt. Auburn Place.

In City Council,

December 28, 1981

12/28/81

CR
Agenda #5
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