

14 Rutland ST
Cambridge MA
December 14, 1987

Dear City Council:

I strongly urge that you accept the recommendation of the Historical Commission to declare 1626 Massachusetts Ave a historical site.

Surely Cambridge is a city that does not have to make every decision about itself in terms of maximizing the number of dollars it can squeeze out or people it can squeeze in to every square foot of space. Please help us retain grace and beauty in our neighborhoods.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Marcel Paul Bazron

PHILIP L. MILLSTEIN, D.M.D.
15 LANGDON STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138
TELEPHONE 864-3446

14 Dec. 81

Dear City Council of Cambridge.

I will not be able to attend
the city council meeting of
December 14, 1981. In lieu of
attending the meeting, I should
like to make it known that I
support landmark designation
for the Wilson House on 1626
Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge.

Sincerely,
Phil Millstein

December 14

The Cambridge City Council

Dear Councilors:

I urge you to vote for the proposed Landmark Designation of 1626 Mass. Ave. The owners of the property, the Trustees of the Park Street Church, the neighborhood, and the merchants who own stores on this section of Mass. Ave. all strongly support the proposed designation. This is a splendid opportunity to preserve part of our architectural

and cultural heritage which
makes Cambridge unique.

Sincerely,

Just Gywillate

P.S. I would attend the leaving
were I not the mother of a 4 day
old baby!

38 Langdon Street
December 14, 1981

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to you in support of preserving 1626 Massachusetts Avenue. As a design professional, living on Langdon Street, I appreciate the character and scale of this building and the adjoining structure and the positive attributes it gives to an otherwise all masonry streetscape.

Whatever the future holds for 1626 I believe future development should be renovative rather than destructive. Maintaining and developing 1626 in architecturally and financially attractive manner could be the first step in allowing a symbol of Cambridge's past to fit the demands and function, either residentially or commercially, as an important part of the city's present and future.

Respectfully yours,
John L. Sweeney

To: the Members of the Cambridge City Council

From: Mary Conlan - 26 Chauncy Street

Re: Landmark Designation for Sawin-Cobb-Wilson House: 1626 Massachusetts Ave

Date: December 14, 1981

I was born and raised between Harvard and Porter Squares and have watched over the years the sad destruction of Massachusetts Avenue. To me it is most regrettable that this trend continues, as witness the recent razing of two beautiful old homes on the corner of Chauncy Street and Massachusetts Avenue and the building of the rather shoddy looking condominium which is now rising there. The neighborhood was caught napping at that time.

We now have the opportunity to save one of the very few remaining examples of fine old houses and one that also housed the first woman practising physician in Cambridge. I hope the Council members will see fit to save this house.

Mary Conlan



COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE
1626 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE

Dear Members of the City Council:

At the corner of Langdon Street and Massachusetts Avenue there is a lovely dark gray wooden house, complete with flowering trees and its original stables. We neighbors feel very strongly that it ought to be preserved as a local historic landmark, under the new city landmark ordinance. Its owner, the Park Street Church of Boston, also supports landmark designation.

The Cambridge Historical Commission voted unanimously, after a public hearing on November 5, 1981, to recommend landmark designation for this remarkable house. Many neighbors appeared in support of the designation, as did representatives of the Park Street Church, its present owner. There was no opposition. The Commission also received many letters, all in support, and a petition of small businessmen in that area of Mass. Ave., also in support.

Built in 1868, the Sawin-Cobb-Wilson House is an important bit of mid-Victorian Cambridge. It is also crucial to the integrity of the immediate neighborhood. At one time both sides of Massachusetts Avenue were lined with imposing mansions of this kind. Now there are exceedingly few left; 1626 Massachusetts Avenue is one of only three or four that have been left standing between Harvard and Porter Squares.

The house is also an important part of Cambridge's social history. It was built by Nathaniel D. Sawin in 1868. He was an early Cambridge City Councillor. It later was the office of one of the first women licensed to practice medicine, Dr. Harriet H. Cobb - a pioneer in the advancement of women. Later it was the office and home of Dr. Perrin T. Wilson, President of the American Osteopathic Association. He treated many famous patients there, including John D. Rockefeller.

It would be heartbreaking ever to lose the Wilson House - and it is horrible to contemplate the likely impact on the surrounding area. Without landmark designation, and with a less sympathetic future owner, this could happen. Not only would we lose a special and significant house, and three glorious flowering trees, but we would lose light and gain congestion. You may find it helpful to take a close look at 1626 when you go by it next.

Upon request we can supply a copy of the Cambridge Ordinance No. 953 that governs these proceedings and the report of the Cambridge Historical Commission, dated September 10, 1981. The Commission report is a fine job by its staff. It highly recommends landmark designation for the Sawin-Cobb-Wilson House.

Sophia Mone
John Sweeney
Ted Reifenstein
Joseph Powers
Kathleen O'Brien
Ellie Cohen
Mark McGrath
Mary McGrath
Judith Coquillette
Dan Coquillette
Jeanne Landon
Penny Kleepsies
Philip Kleepsies
Mary Conlan
Gordon Moore
Charlotte Moore
Mary C. Robinson
Tony Sitko
Jean Sitko
Betty Sitko
Jim Block
Ruth Block
Top Sawyer
Larry Cabot
Joel Cabot
Philip Millstein

Ann Orlov, Secy.
41 Langdon St.
864-4518

S-681
Comms. from Philip Millstein, M. Paul Gagnon
John L. Sweeney, Mary Conlan, Judith Coquil-
lette Re: favoring the designation of 1626
Mass. Avenue as a landmark.

In City Council,

December 14, 1981