



City of Malden

Massachusetts

MALDEN HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 19, 2022

President Craig Spadafora, Councilor-at-Large
Members of the Malden City Council
Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

RE: 15 Ferry Street - M. Ida Converse Building/Malden Industrial Aid Association Building

Dear President Spadafora and City Councilors,

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent request by the Malden Historical Commission regarding 15 Ferry Street, the M. Ida Converse Building, one of the remaining three Converse buildings in the City. The Commission urges the City Council to move swiftly to approve the proposed relocation of this building to the Malden High School site at 77 Salem Street before the demolition delay period expires on May 31, 2022, when this historic building may be demolished.

The Commission just received notice today that the owner of 15 Ferry Street will agree to no further extension of the demolition delay period. The delay period has been in effect since June 5, 2019 and has been continually extended by the owner and Commission, pursuant to the City Demolition and Alteration Delay Ordinance (Title 4.24 of the Code of the City of Malden). The delay period has provided years of opportunity to explore alternatives to demolition. At this time, the Commission is certain that the proposed relocation of the building is the only available alternative to the demolition of this important building.

The owner of 15 Ferry Street has agreed to relocate the building to a City property as a means to save the building and has executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the City for the relocation. The Malden High School site has been identified as a feasible relocation site, specifically, the open yard area on the corner of Salem Street and Holden Street. The proposed relocation is depicted on the photosimulations, "Relocated Ferry Street," dated June 25, 2021, prepared by Khalsa Design Architects, and supplemented by plans, "New Foundation & Basement Plan" and "First Floor Support Plan," dated August 23, 2021, prepared by Khalsa Design Architects; and the reports, "Preliminary Conditions Review in Support of Potential Building Move," dated April 2021, prepared by Building Conservation Associates, Inc., and "Narrative Description of Proposed Building Relocation," prepared by Structural Integrity Engineering Group, Inc., all attached for your reference.

The Commission supports this proposed relocation site because it allows the 15 Ferry Street building to remain in the historic Converse Square Area. The historic significance of this building is documented in the attached Massachusetts Historical Commission Inventory Form MAL. 491. Under the proposed location, this building will continue to be surrounded by properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including the Malden High School, the Davenport Estate, Converse Memorial Library and Odd Fellows Building, and many other historically significant properties listed on the Massachusetts Historical Commission registry, such as the Central Fire Station and Salem Street Cemetery.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Romero

City Planner

Clerk to the Malden Historical Commission

Attachments