

PRESS RELEASE

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October 12, 2018



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J.R. ALLEY “EBLANA” BREWERY LISTED ON THE 2018 MASSACHUSETTS MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC RESOURCES LIST

Vacant Mission Hill Brewery Could Be A Great Opportunity For Preservation

Mission Hill, Boston, MA – The J.R. Alley Brewery, also known as the Eblana Brewery, has been named one of Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources. Since 1993, this list has been compiled and published by Preservation Massachusetts, the statewide nonprofit historic preservation advocacy organization.

The Alley Brewery on Heath Street in Boston’s Mission Hill neighborhood is distinct for its ornate architecture and its contributions to the history of breweries in the area. Named after its owner John R. Alley, the brewery was one of the most technologically advanced when it was constructed in 1885 and was known for its production of Eblana Irish Ale. Alley’s initials adorn a granite plaque on the east façade and the complex was an active site for different manufacturing works until 2004. Surrounded by modest two and three family houses, the brewery’s imposing height and iconic façade, that still retains a gated entrance, mark it as a landmark in the community.

In 2013, plans for the brewery’s demolition were announced to make way for the construction of luxury housing. While demolition has not occurred, the property continues to sit and further deteriorate. Without any clear planned use for the building, community members are concerned for the future of the site and feel it has a great potential for a restoration and adaptive reuse project. Working collaboratively with the owner and other community stakeholders could result in some creative opportunities for the brewery.

Jim Igoe, President of Preservation Massachusetts feels strongly about the future of the J.R. Alley Brewery. “This distinctive property has unfortunately been sitting vacant for a number of years and without much vision for its current state. It is hoped that the Most Endangered listing can begin some collaborative work with the owner, City, elected officials and other community organizations to find a creative and fitting restoration and reuse plan for the brewery.”

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The other endangered resources listed in 2018 are: Arlington High School (Arlington), Attleboro Switch Tower (Attleboro), The Pillars & The Columns (Dennis), Calf Pasture Pump House (Dorchester), Clinton Church (Great Barrington), GAR Hall (Lynn), Historic Stonewalls (Massachusetts), Echo Bridge Railings (Newton/Needham), and Town Hall & Auditorium (New Salem).

The 2018 Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources list will be publicly recognized at the Believe in Preservation event, hosted this year at Nixon Peabody LLP, 100 Summer Street, Boston on November 7th. For more event details, and more information on the Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources Program, visit www.preservationmass.org or call 617-723-3383.

About the ‘Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources’ List

Since 1993, the list of most endangered historic resources has become an effective tool for preservationists to focus statewide attention on the condition of individual historic properties and their importance to communities. Of the more than 220 historic resources designated as endangered since the list’s inception in 1993, 91 have been classified as saved, 31 have been lost while many more are either progressing or continue to face threats.

This year’s list was chosen by a committee from nominations submitted by groups and individuals concerned with local preservation issues throughout the state. Submissions are judged by several criteria, including their historic significance, the extent of the threat and the community’s commitment to preserving the resource.

Founded in 1985, Preservation Massachusetts is the statewide non-profit organization that actively promotes the preservation of historic buildings and landscapes as a positive force for economic development and the retention of community character.

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