

BOSTON PRESERVATION ALLIANCE

www.bostonpreservation.org

May 27, 2026

Elizabeth Sherva

Deputy Director of Historic Preservation, Office of Historic Preservation
26 Court Street, Floor 2
Boston, MA 02108
Re: Application D26.0343

Dear Deputy Director Sherva,

The Boston Preservation Alliance is the city's primary nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and promoting Boston's historic buildings, places, and landscapes. Our advocacy addresses pressing issues including climate resiliency, housing and small business affordability, and equity in preservation.

With 40 Organizational Members, 134 Corporate Members, and a reach of over 100,000 friends and supporters we represent a diverse constituency advocating for the thoughtful evolution of the city and celebration of its unique character. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on projects and initiatives that impact the historic character of the city.

Today, we write to convey our opposition to the proposed demolition of the Eblana-Alley Brewery at 123-127 Heath St, Mission Hill, Boston MA. The Alliance has been engaged with this site for many years and has been in dialogue with the owner of the building, City officials, and advocates in Mission Hill to push for the preservation of the site.


The building 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. Surrounded by modest two and three family houses, the brewery's imposing height and iconic facade make it a significant site in the neighborhood.

Despite being named to Preservation Massachusetts' Most Endangered Historic Resources List in 2018 after sitting vacant for a number of years, the building has remained out of use and neglected in the intervening time. Accelerated damage by neglect of the building has been reflected in at least two site visits within the last five years. While the Alliance's previous Executive Directors have spoken with the property owner to encourage preservation and reuse of the existing buildings, it is our understanding that no specific proposals were pursued.

The Alliance opposes the proposed demolition of the Eblana-Alley Brewery. We recognize there is not a traditional preservation mechanism available to prevent the erasure of this iconic site at this juncture, but feel it is important to formally comment and register our concern as well as document

the significance of the resource and broader implications of its loss. We appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Thank you,



Katherine Davis-Wheeler
Executive Director
Boston Preservation Alliance



Molly Donahue
Director of Advocacy
Boston Preservation Alliance