



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

August 4, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation of The Anna Harris Smith House 65 Pleasant Street, Dorchester (Boston) MA.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on June 24, 2025 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on August 4, 2025.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (September 4, 2025), the designation shall be deemed as if approved.

Respectfully

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

cc Elizabeth Sherva, Director
Boston Landmarks Commission

**VOTE OF DESIGNATION BY THE
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

PROPERTY: The Anna Harris Smith House, 65 Pleasant Street, Dorchester (Boston), MA

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED:

As described in the section titled "Standards and Criteria" included in the study report for the subject property.

APPROVED BY THE BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION:

Date approved: 6/24/2025

Signature: Elizabeth J. [Signature]
(Secretary to the Commission)

PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:

Date: JUL 31 2025

DECISION OF THE MAYOR:

☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Date: 8/4/2025

Signature: [Signature]
(Mayor)

(OR) DEEMED IN EFFECT WITH NO ACTION BY THE MAYOR:

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

Date: _____

DECISION OF THE CITY COUNCIL:

☐ Approved ☐ Disapproved

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

(OR) DEEMED IN EFFECT WITH NO ACTION BY CITY COUNCIL:

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(City Clerk)



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS

City Clerk

RECEIVED FROM THE CITY CLERK FOR PRESENTATION TO THE
MAYOR, VIZ:

Designation as a Landmark - Petition #225.07 – The Anna Harris Smith
House; 65 Pleasant Street, Dorchester, MA.



City of Boston
Historic Preservation



City of Boston
Mayor Michelle Wu

The Honorable Michelle Wu
Mayor of the City of Boston
Boston City Hall
Boston, MA 02201

June 26, 2025

RE: Petition #225.07 - The Anna Harris Smith House, 65 Pleasant St., Dorchester

Dear Mayor Wu:

On June 24, 2025, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Anna Harris Smith House in Dorchester as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

The Anna Harris Smith House at 65 Pleasant Street in Dorchester was built in 1804 by Samuel Clapp and is one of the oldest surviving houses in Boston. It is architecturally significant to the city of Boston as the best-preserved example of a five-bay by two-bay Federal-style vernacular house in Dorchester. Few examples of the five-bay by two-bay form remain in Dorchester. Other extant examples are substantially altered; the Smith House is the best-preserved of the form.

The Smith House is also historically significant at the local, state, and regional levels for its association with the prominent Clapp family, including Anna Harris Smith, the founder of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Smith (the granddaughter of Samuel Clapp, who built the house) was born in the house in 1843 and lived there until 1908. Under Smith's leadership, the Animal Rescue League of Boston grew into a widely impactful institution which became a model for humane societies across the country, and which continues today to serve communities throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of the Anna Harris Smith House in Dorchester as a Boston Landmark.

Please don't hesitate to call me at (617) 635-1935 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Elizabeth Sherva
Executive Director
Boston Landmarks Commission

CITY of BOSTON

20 CITY HALL AVENUE BOSTON, MA 02108-4301 | 617-635-1935 | BLC@BOSTON.GOV



City of Boston
Historic Preservation



City of Boston
Mayor Michelle Wu

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk, City of Boston
Boston City Hall - Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

June 26, 2025

RE: Petition #225.07 – The Anna Harris Smith House, 65 Pleasant St., Dorchester

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On June 24, 2025, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate the Anna Harris Smith House in Dorchester as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

According to the Landmarks Commission's statute, a designation approved by the Commission is presented to the Mayor for signing. If the Mayor approves the designation, they sign and date the provided signature page. If the Mayor disapproves the designation, they return the signature page to the City Clerk with objections noted in writing. If no mayoral action is taken on a designation, it is deemed approved by the Mayor after fifteen days.

The statute states that within thirty days following mayoral approval, the City Council can override a designation by a two-thirds vote. In the absence of City Council action, the designation is approved after the thirty-first day.

I appreciate your supervision of this approval process. Please call me at (617) 635-1935 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Elizabeth Sherva
Executive Director
Boston Landmarks Commission

CITY of BOSTON

20 CITY HALL AVENUE BOSTON, MA 02108-4301 | 617-635-1935 | BLC@BOSTON.GOV

**VOTE OF DESIGNATION BY THE
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

PROPERTY: The Anna Harris Smith House, 65 Pleasant Street, Dorchester (Boston), MA

VOTED: That on June 24, 2025, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates the Anna Harris Smith House at 65 Pleasant Street as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

John Amodeo

Celina Barrios-Millner

David Berarducci

Jeffrey Heyne

Kirsten Hoffman

Justine Orlando

Brad Walker

Angela Ward-Hyatt

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

The Anna Harris Smith House at 65 Pleasant Street was built in 1804 by Samuel Clapp and is one of the oldest surviving houses in Boston. Modest in detail, the Federal-style house is oriented toward, and set back from, the street. The house is five bays wide and two bays deep, with several additions toward the rear. The house is clad with clapboards and trimmed with a wood sillboard and cornerboards. It is architecturally significant to the city of Boston as the best-preserved example of a five-bay by two-bay Federal-style vernacular house in Dorchester.

The Smith House is also historically significant at the local, state, and regional levels for its association with the prominent Clapp family, including Anna Harris Smith, the founder of the Animal Rescue League of Boston. Smith (the granddaughter of Samuel Clapp, who built the house) was born in the house in 1843 and lived there until 1908. Under Smith's leadership, the Animal Rescue League of Boston grew into a widely impactful institution which became a model for humane societies across the country, and which continues today to serve communities throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:

The boundaries of the designated property are limited to the following address and parcel number: 65 Pleasant Street, Dorchester, parcel number 1301499000.