

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Application Date: October 29, 2014

Applicant: Sam Gianukos, Creole Design, LLC, for Matthew Ager, owner

Property: 1548 Cortlandt Street, Tract 24A, Block 138, Houston Heights Subdivision. The property includes a historic 988 square foot, one-story wood frame single-family residence and a detached garage situated on a 5,000 square foot (50' x 100") corner lot.

Significance: Contributing English Cottage residence, constructed circa 1940, located in the Houston Heights Historic District East.

Proposal: Alteration/Relocation/Addition –

- Relocate the house 6' forward on a corner lot from 29' to a 23' front setback.
- Raise foundation height from 2' to 2'-5".
- Remove original 8/12 pitch side gable roof and replace with a 10/12 pitch side gable, which will increase the ridge height 5'-8" from 20'-4" to 26'. Add 2' pony wall under new roof structure. Replace original boxed eave returns with Greek-style eave returns.
- Construct a rear two-story 2,824 square foot addition with an attached garage that measures 30' wide, 25' deep, and 26' tall.

See enclosed application materials and detailed project description on p. 7-40 for further details.

Public Comment: Two in favor, and Five opposed. See Attachment A.

Civic Association: No comment received.

Recommendation: Denial - does not satisfy criteria: 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10

HAHC Action: Denied

APPROVAL CRITERIA

ALTERATIONS, REHABILITATIONS, RESTORATIONS AND ADDITIONS

Sec. 33-241(a): HAHC shall issue a certificate of appropriateness for the alteration, rehabilitation, restoration or addition of an exterior feature of (i) any landmark or protected landmark, (ii) any building, structure or object that is contributing to an historic district, or (iii) any building, structure or object that is part of an archaeological site, upon finding that the application satisfies the following criteria, as applicable:

S D NA

S - satisfies D - does not satisfy NA - not applicable

- (1) The proposed activity must retain and preserve the historical character of the property;
The contributing house has the typical architectural character, features, and proportions of a circa 1940 English Cottage style house, including a side gable roof with 8/12 pitch and boxed eave returns. Furthermore, the existing setbacks of the house are in line with the neighboring properties and an important part of the historic character of the property.
The replacement of the roof structure, addition of 2' pony wall under the new roof, change in type of eave returns, relocation of the structure on site, increased foundation height, and large two-story rear addition with attached garage alter the original architectural features and proportions of the house and have a detrimental impact on its historic character.
- (2) The proposed activity must contribute to the continued availability of the property for a contemporary use;
- (3) The proposed activity must recognize the building, structure, object or site as a product of its own time and avoid alterations that seek to create an earlier or later appearance;
The replacement of the original boxed eave returns with Greek-style eave returns introduces a new architectural element that was never present on the residence, thus creating a false sense of history.
- (4) The proposed activity must preserve the distinguishing qualities or character of the building, structure, object or site and its environment;
The residence features a side gable roof with an 8/12 pitch, boxed eave returns, a 2' foundation height, and a 29'-1" front setback. The replacement of the roof with a new side gable roof with a 10/12 pitch, Greek-style eave returns, new 2' pony wall under the roof structure, the increased foundation height to 2'-5", and the relocation of the residence to a 23'-1" front setback does not preserve the distinguishing qualities of the 1940 English Cottage and greatly alter the historic character of the house.
- (5) The proposed activity must maintain or replicate distinctive stylistic exterior features or examples of skilled craftsmanship that characterize the building, structure, object or site;
The replacement of the original boxed eave return with Greek-style eave returns does not maintain the distinctive exterior feature that is part of the character of the 1940s English Cottage residence.
- (6) New materials to be used for any exterior feature excluding what is visible from public alleys must be visually compatible with, but not necessarily the same as, the materials being replaced in form, design, texture, dimension and scale;
- (7) The proposed replacement of missing exterior features, if any, should be based on an accurate duplication of features, substantiated by available historical, physical or pictorial evidence, where that evidence is available, rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other structures;
- (8) Proposed additions or alterations must be done in a manner that, if removed in the future, would leave unimpaired the essential form and integrity of the building, structure, object or site;
The replacement of the 8/12 side gable roof with a 10/12 side gable roof and removal of the original rear gable bay changes the essential form of the house. Furthermore, the existing gables

This contributing structure is one piece of a larger whole that makes up the Houston Heights Historic District South. The house's current original site placement is part of its original historic character. The house features an original front setback of 29'-1", which is in line with the contributing structures on this blockface. The front wall of the residence is constructed in line with the front walls of the contributing residence on the block. Moving the house on site to an atypical front setback will compromise the historic character of this house, the lot on which it sits, and the blockface overall.

(d) If located in an historic district, can be relocated without significantly diminishing the integrity of the historic district in which it is located.

Altering the historic site placement pattern of contributing structures diminishes the historic character and integrity of the overall historic district. Although moving only one contributing house might not 'significantly' diminish the integrity of the district, allowing contributing structures to be moved on site without good cause will significantly compromise the historic integrity and value of the district as more applicants request relocation of contributing structures on site in order to accommodate oversized additions.

(2) The relocation is necessary to protect the landmark, contributing structure or potentially contributing structure from demolition resulting from a public improvement project;

(3) The applicant has established an unreasonable economic hardship pursuant to the criteria of section 33-247(c):

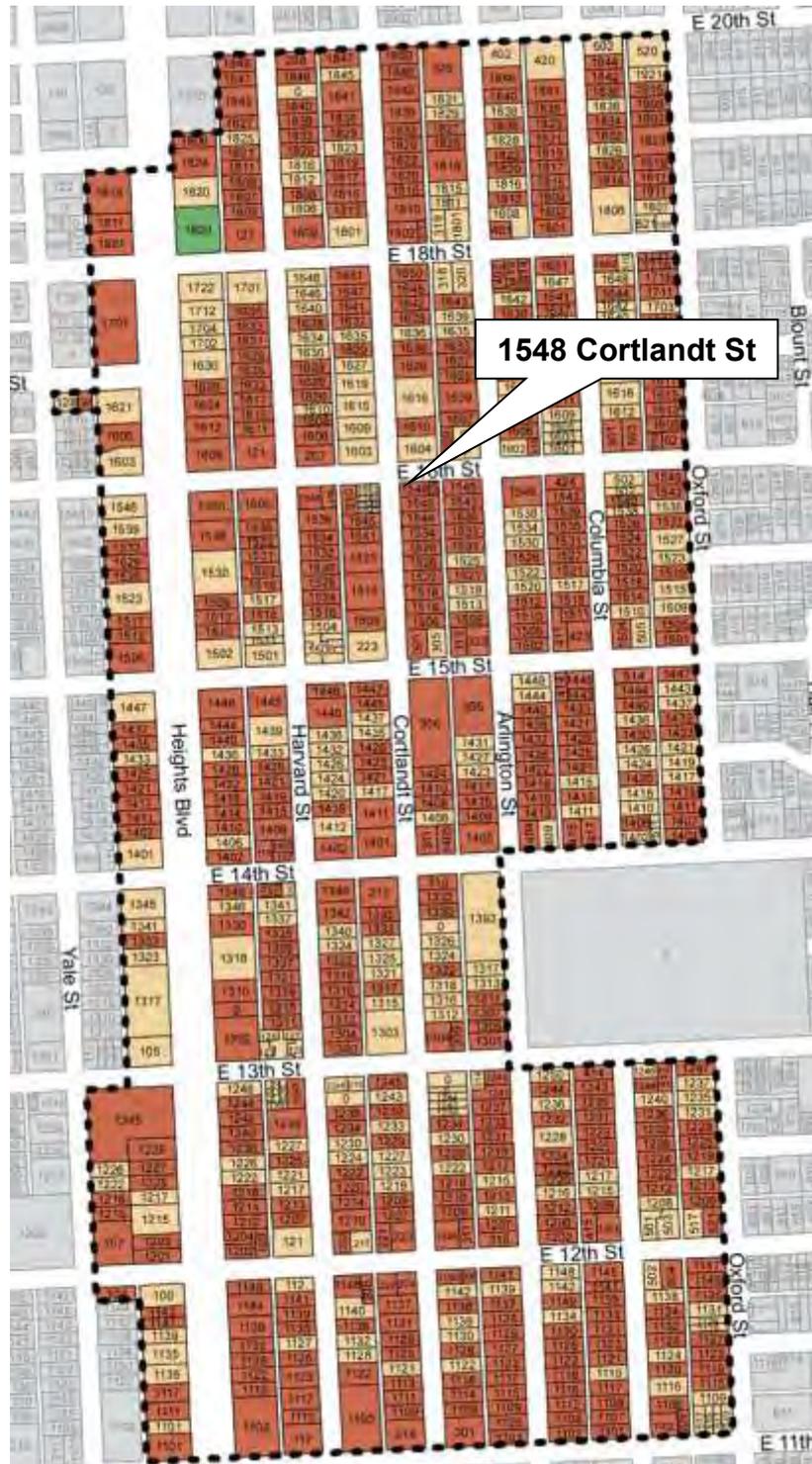
(4) The applicant has established unusual or compelling circumstances pursuant to the criteria of section 33-247(d):



PROPERTY LOCATION
HOUSTON HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT EAST

Building Classification

- Contributing
- Non-Contributing
- Park



INVENTORY PHOTO



CURRENT PHOTO



WEST ELEVATION – FRONT FACING CORTLANDT
EXISTING



PROPOSED



NORTH SIDE ELEVATION FACING E 16TH STREET

EXISTING



PROPOSED



SOUTH SIDE ELEVATION

EXISTING



PROPOSED



EAST (REAR) ELEVATION

EXISTING



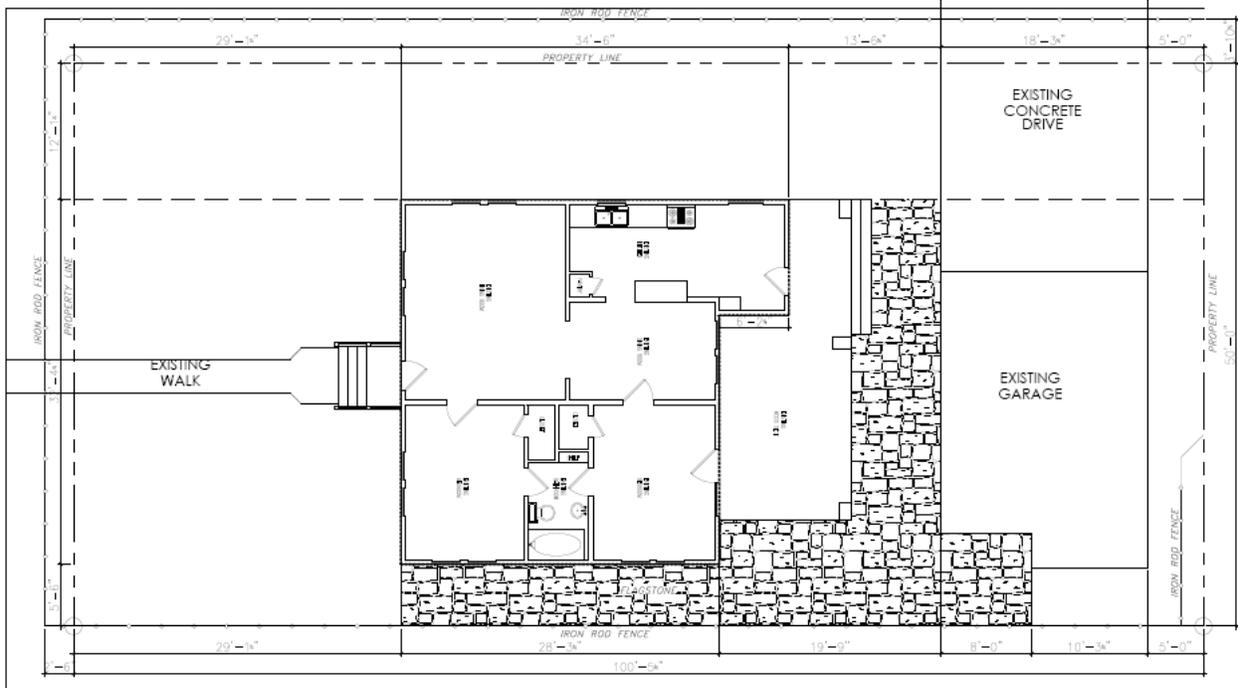
PROPOSED



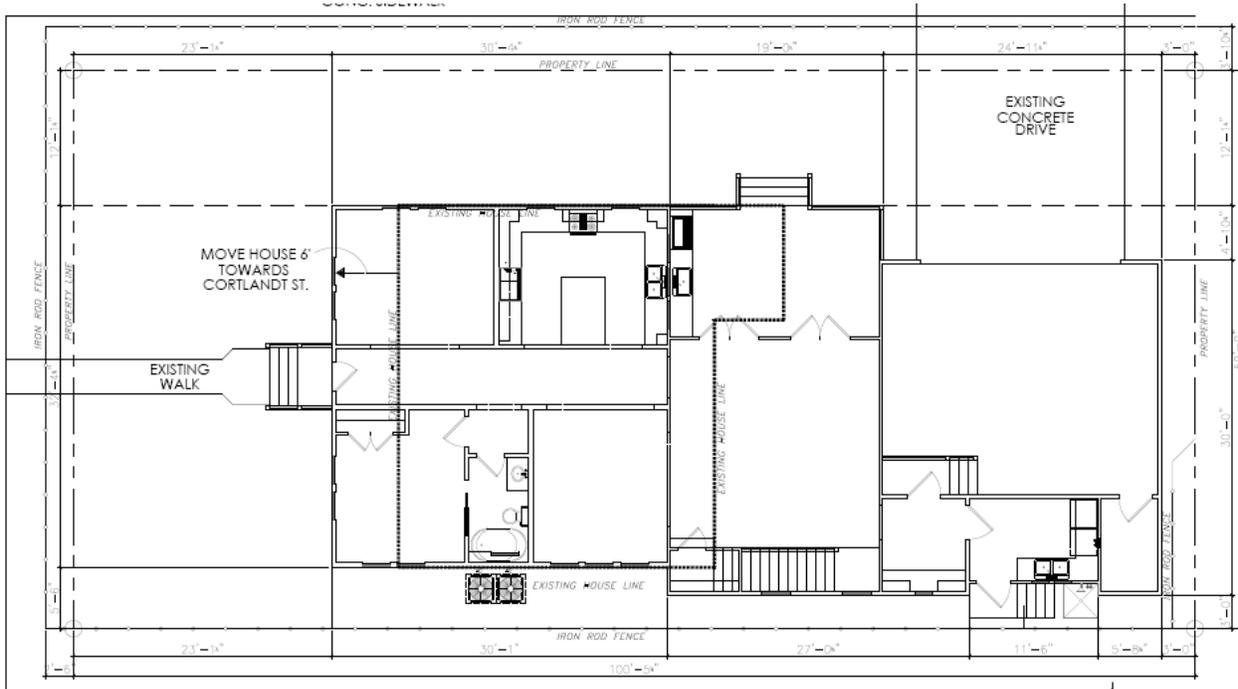


SITE PLAN

EXISTING



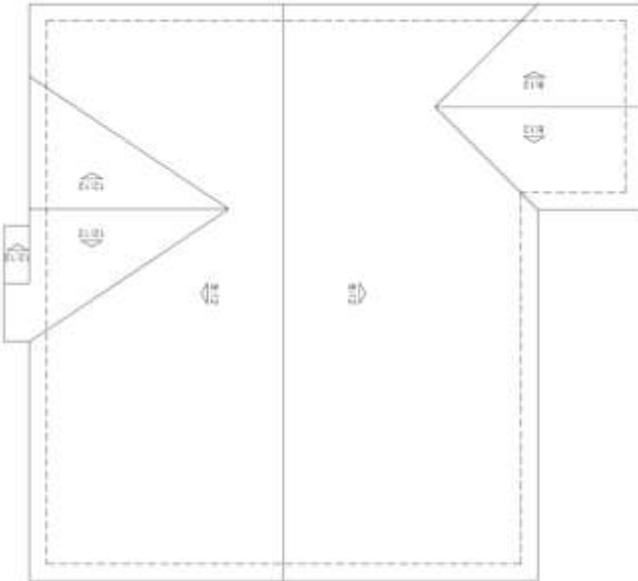
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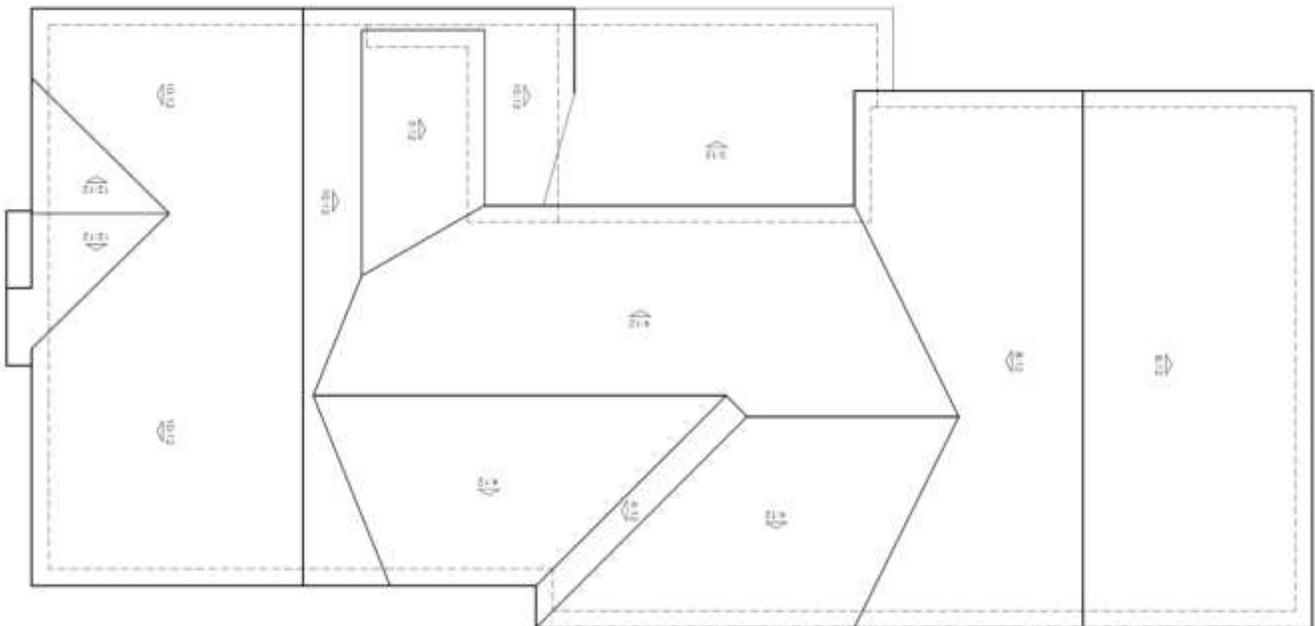


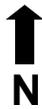
ROOF PLAN

EXISTING



PROPOSED





FIRST FLOOR PLAN

EXISTING



Sanborn maps indicate that this rear bay is original to the house.

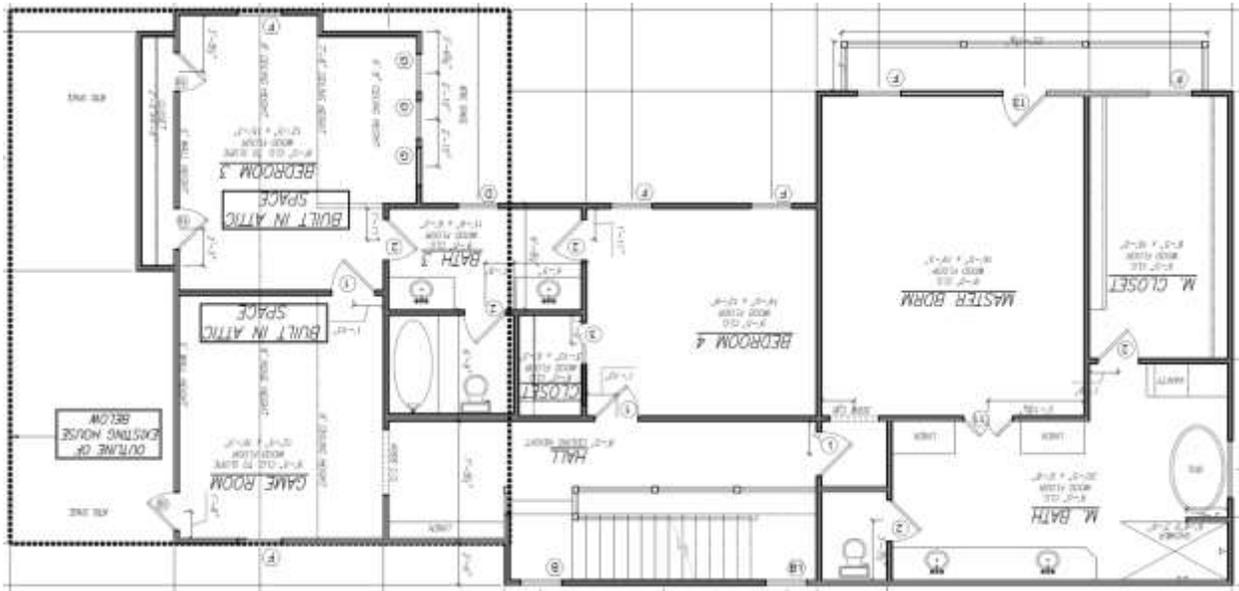
PROPOSED



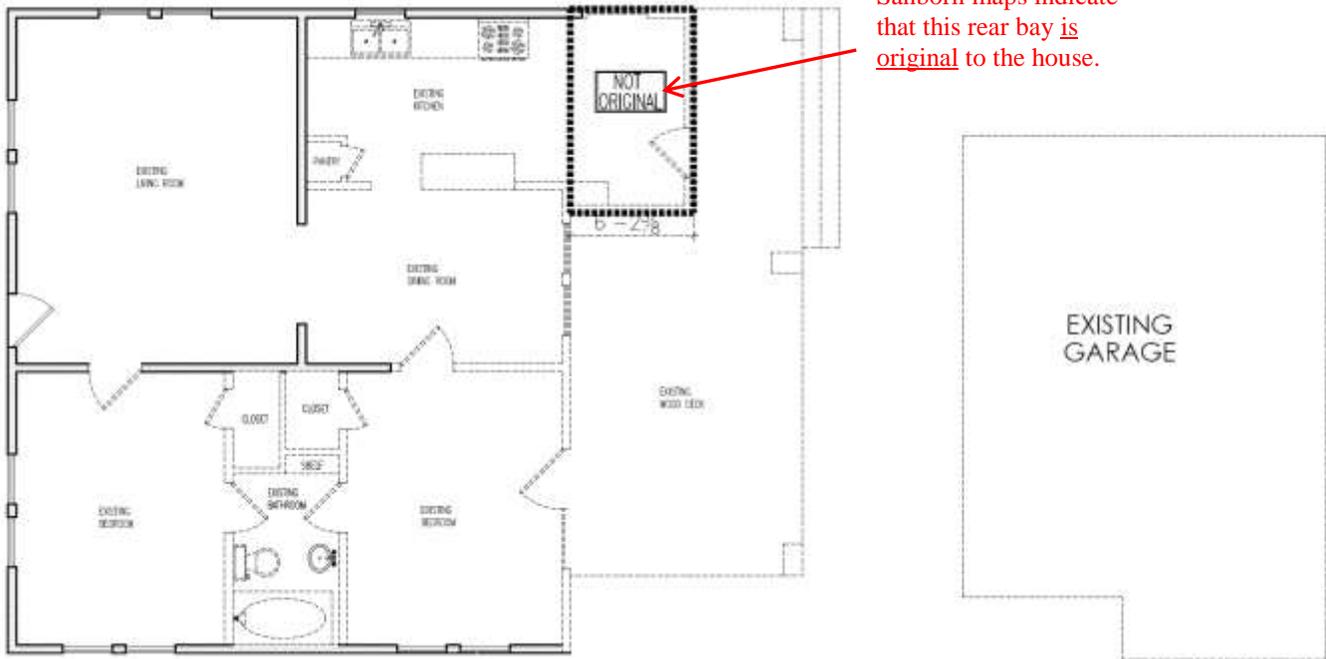


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

PROPOSED



DEMO PLAN



WINDOW / DOOR SCHEDULE

WINDOW SCHEDULE

WINDOW SCHEDULE				
SIZES GIVEN ARE THE ROUGH OPENING DIMENSION				
MARK	QTY	WIDTH	HEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
A	1	2'-6"	5'-0"	SINGLE HUNG
B	3	2'-8"	5'-0"	TEMPERED SINGLE HUNG
B1	1	2'-8"	5'-0"	SINGLE HUNG
C	3	1'-6"	1'-0"	TRANSOM
D	5	2'-6"	3'-0"	SINGLE HUNG
F	5	2'-8"	5'-6"	SINGLE HUNG
G	3	2'-4"	1'-6"	TRANSOM
H	1	3'-6"	3'-6"	TEMPERED SINGLE HUNG
I	2	2'-8"	5'-4"	SINGLE HUNG

DOOR SCHEDULE

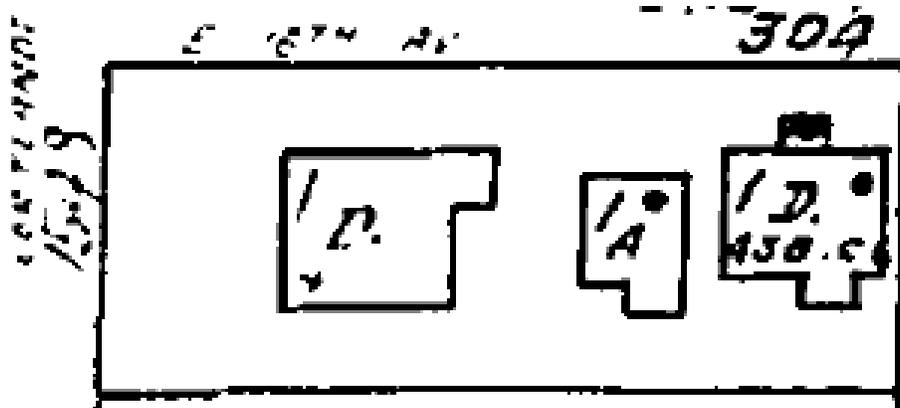
DOOR SCHEDULE				
<i>DOOR NO.</i>	<i>QTY.</i>	<i>WIDTH</i>	<i>HEIGHT</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
①	4	2'-8"	6'-8"	INTERIOR DOOR @ BEDROOMS
②	7	2'-6"	6'-8"	INTERIOR DOOR @ BATH & CLOSET
③	2	2'-6"	6'-8"	INTERIOR POCKET DOOR
④	1	(2)2'-0"	6'-8"	INTERIOR DOUBLE DOORS, (UNIT)
⑤	2	(2)2'-8"	6'-8"	EXTERIOR FRENCH DOORS, (UNIT)
⑥	1	3'-0"	6'-8"	20 MIN. FIRE RATED DOOR W/CLOSURE
⑦	1	3'-0"	6'-8"	INTERIOR DOOR @ UTILITY
⑧	1	3'-0"	6'-8"	EXTERIOR DOOR @ UTILITY ROOM
⑨	1	3'-0"	6'-8"	INTERIOR DOOR @ GARAGE TO SAFE
⑩	3	2'-4"	---	INTERIOR DOOR @ CLOSET (CUT TO FIT)
⑪	1	1'-6"	6'-8"	INTERIOR DOUBLE DOORS @ MASTER BATH (UNIT)
⑫	1	18'-0"	7'-0"	OVERHEAD GARAGE DOOR
⑬	1	2'-8"	6'-8"	EXTERIOR DOOR @ MASTER ROOM

LINE OF SIGHT

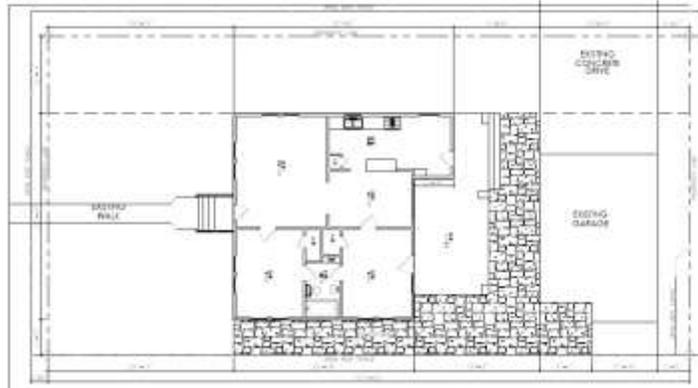


SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP

1924-1951

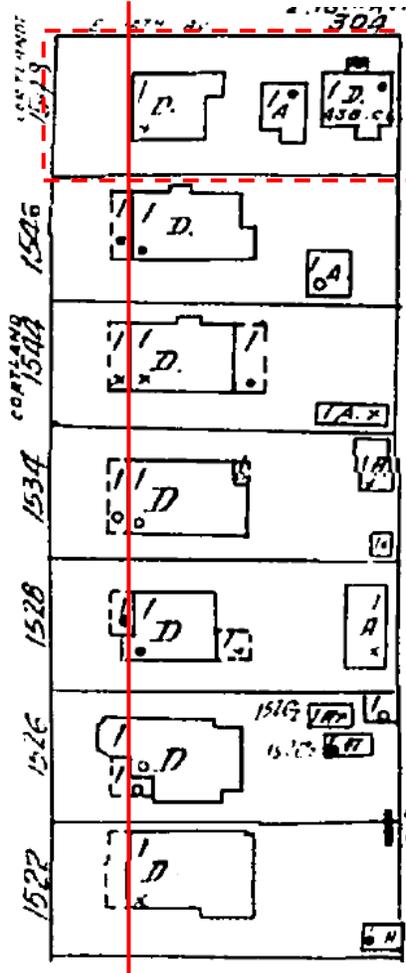


CURRENT SITE PLAN



1924-1951 SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAP

BLOCKFACE SETBACKS



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY APPLICANT

EXISTING FRONT ELEVATION



EXISTING DETACHED GARAGE



REAR ELEVATION PORCH



REAR ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION



ORIGINAL REAR WING



NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



PROJECT DETAILS

Shape/Mass: The residence measures 32'-4" wide, 34'-6" deep on the north elevation, 28'-3" deep on the south elevation, 9'-6" to the eave, and 20'-4" to the ridge. The roof will be removed and raised. A 2' foot pony wall will be installed and the roof pitch will be increased from 8/12 to 10/12. The proposed eave height for the existing one-story residence will be 11'-1" and the proposed ridge height will be 26'. The existing original one-story rear gable bay measuring 11' wide and 6'-2" deep will be demolished. The two-story addition will measure 22'-7" wide and 18'-11" deep, 21'-3" to the eave, and 25'-11" to the ridge. The attached garage will measure 30' wide, 25' deep, 21'-1" to the eave, and 30'-10" to the ridge. The addition and attached garage will have an overall depth of 44'-3".

Setbacks: The residence is setback 29'-1" from the front property line, 12'-1" from the side, north property line, 5'-6" from the side, south property line, and 36'-9" from the rear property line. The residence will be relocated forward, to the west, on the lot to a front setback of 23'-1". The addition will be setback 53'-2" from the front property line, 12'-1" from the side, north property line, and the garage will be setback, 16'-11" from the side, north property line, 3' from the side, south property line, and 3' from the rear property line.

Foundation: The residence is built on a pier and beam foundation with a 2' foundation height. The foundation will be raised 5" from 2' to 2'-5". The addition will be built on a pier and beam foundation with a 2'-5" foundation height. The attached garage will be built on a slab foundation.

Windows/Doors: The residence features wood 1-over-1 sash windows, a non-original aluminum box window, a single lite entry door, and a set of single lite french doors. The existing single lite front entry door and wood 1-over-1 sash windows will be retained. The addition and attached garage will feature wood 1-over-1 sash window, single lite fixed wood windows, single lite french doors, a single lite entry doors, and a sectional overhead garage door.

Exterior Materials: The residence is clad with wood 105 siding; the siding will be retained. The front entry features wood decorative brackets and a set of concrete step; the concrete steps will be replaced with a new set of steps with wood handrails. The rear of the residence features a wood porch with wood steps, the porch will be demolished. The addition will be clad with wood 105 siding to match the original 105 siding on the residence. The addition will feature a side covered porch with wood steps, handrails and guardrails and a round wood column.

Roof: The residence features a side gable roof with closed eaves, and a 1' overhang. The roof features boxed eave returns and an 8/12 pitch. The residence features a stacked gable front entry roof with boxed eave returns and a 12/12 pitch. The side gable roof will be removed and new side gable roof with closed eaves, and 1' overhang will be constructed. The proposed roof will feature Greek-style eave returns and a 10/12 pitch. A shed roof dormer with a 3/12 pitch will be constructed on the rear slope. The addition will feature a gable roof with closed, 1' overhang, and a 4/12 pitch. The attached garage will feature a side gable roof with closed eaves, 1' overhang, boxed eave returns, and an 8/12 pitch. The covered side porch will feature a standing seam metal shed roof with a 3/12 pitch. The addition and attached garage roofs will be clad with composite shingles.

Front Elevation: The residence features four 1-over-1 wood sash windows and a single lite entry door. The
(West) stacked gable front entry features a wood louvered gable vent and boxed eave returns. The boxed eave returns will be replaced with Greek-style eave returns.

Side Elevation: The residence features three 1-over-1 sash windows and a non-original aluminum box window.
(North) The gable features a wood louvered vent. A 1-over-1 sash window will be installed at the rear corner of the residence. The louvered gable vent will be replaced with a 1-over-1 sash window. The first floor of the addition and garage will feature two sets of single lite french doors and a

sectional overhead garage door. The second floor five 1-over-1 sash windows, a single lite entry door and a wood louvered gable vent. The second floor of the garage will feature a balcony with wood guardrails measuring 22'-3" wide and 3' deep.

Side Elevation: The residence features five 1-over-1 sash windows and a wood louvered gable vent. The existing
(South) 1-over-1 center window will be removed and the opening will be infilled with 105 wood siding. A new 1-over-1 window will be installed at the rear corner of the residence next to two existing 1-over-1 sash windows. The louvered gable vent will be replaced with a 1-over-1 sash window. The addition and garage will feature a 1-over-1 sash window, two single lite fixed windows, and a single lite entry door on the first floor. The entry door will feature a wood landing with wood steps and wood handrails. The second floor will feature three 1-over-1 sash windows.

Rear Elevation: The residence features two 1-over-1 sash windows, a single lite entry door, a set of single lite
(East) french doors, and a wood deck. The addition will feature a single lite fixed window on the second floor.

ATTACHMENT A
PUBLIC COMMENT**Houston Heights East Historic District Development Review Committee (ad-hoc)****Monthly Review Report**

The DRC report for Certificate of Appropriateness Applications is as follows:

Month:	Nov-14	Date of Report:	17-Nov-14			
HAHC Action	Site Address	APPLICANT	COMPANY	PROPOSED ACTIVITY	DRC Response	DRC Vote
B22	1301 Arlington	Aaron Mendias	Cusimano Arch	Construct rear second story addition - Replace 8 non-orig single lite windows	Support No Object Object	4 2
B23	1548 Cortlandt	Sam Gianukos	Creole Design LLC	Relocate existing house Change roof, raise foundation add 2 story and garage	Support No Object Object	2 4
B24	1431 Columbia (G)	Brett Zamore	Brett Zamore Design	New 1 1/2 story garage at rear of lot	Support No Object Object	5
B25	1214 Harvard	Brie Kellman (abstained from vote)		New 2-story addition to side of existing house 2 story addition to rear replace windows	Support No Object Object	2 1 2
B26	1535 Arlington (G)	Jos & C Wright		New 2 story garage at rear of lot	Support No Object Object	5 1
B27	1535 Arlington (A)	Jos & C Wright		Raise exist foundation add 2 story to rear of exist house	Support No Object Object	4 2
B28	1232 Arlington (A)	Kevin Walton	Rob Sanders Homes	Remove exist sec story add const new 2 story rear add add porch rail - remove exist chimney/fire place	Support No Object Object	5 1
B29	1232 Arlington (G)	Kevin Walton	Rob Sanders Homes	Const new 1 story detached garage	Support No Object Object	5 1
B30	1226 Heights Blvd	Ali Afshari	Persepolis Homes	Const new front door stoop	Support No Object Object	2 2
B41	1815 Cortlandt	Alex Ridgeway	Brick Moon Design	Rev CofA for different window locations and sizes	Support No Object Object	2 2 2

From: Mark R. Williamson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 4:55 PM
To: Kent Marsh
Subject: Re: November HAHC Meeting

Kent,

That's a lot to wade through.

Several of these bring up problems that I have with the existing ordinance even if I cannot base an objection within that ordinance.

1232 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition -- no objection
1232 Arlington St, New Construction-Garage -- no objection
1301 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition -- no objection
1535 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition -- no objection
1535 Arlington St, New Construction-Garage -- support design, except confused about vehicle access paths
1431 Columbia St, New Construction-Garage -- support (adjacent neighbor)
1548 Cortlandt St, Alteration-Relocation/Addition -- object (hugely out of scale on 16th Street side)
1815 Cortlandt St, New Construction-Residence, *Revision* -- no objection
1214 Harvard St, Alteration-Addition -- no comment
1226 Heights Blvd, New Construction-Residence, *Revision* -- no information posted (pulled??); no opinion

From: Zucker, Jim
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 10:23 AM
To: Kent Marsh; Mark R. Williamson; Jonathan Smulian; Bart Truxillo; Brie Kelman
Subject: RE: Historic District - posting of Certificate of Appropriateness Applications

Here are my votes and comments on the applications:

1232 Arlington—Support

The Smiths have been trying to get through this process for more than a year now. They had staff approval for all but a dormer, including the removal of the pop-up, which was added after the period of significance. Then Anna Mod decided that the pop-up itself was significant because it reflected a WWII or post-war attempt at expanding a bungalow (imagine that—additions can themselves become historically significant even when they alter the original structure!!! So much for the argument that additions should start 100% back so there is a clear distinction between the original structure and the addition so some future generation could remove the addition, at which time they will be told it is historically significant in its own right and cannot be removed). As with all of their previous proposals, this one satisfies the ordinance and should be approved post haste.

1301 Arlington—Support

1535 Arlington—Support.

I think this would look much better if there were windows on the street-facing side of the second-story addition. It looks closed and disconnected without those windows.

1548 Cortlandt—Support.

This small size of the existing house means any addition will affect the existing structure. As I read the staff report, it would essentially not permit any addition, which I think is not in keeping with the ordinance. I think the planned house will fit with the neighborhood and is a good use of space.

1815 Cortlandt—Support.

I still do not think the design of this house is in keeping with the character of the neighborhood, but the ordinance certainly allows you to do what you want with the windows.

1214 Harvard—Support.

This is the house directly across from my house at 1213 Harvard Street. I fully support this addition. My wife and I looked at this house when it was on the market and the second story presented incredible challenges. It had four rooms, but only two with closets. The side bump out is necessary to allow enough room for closets and is minimal. The second-story connector to the existing garage apartment makes a lot of sense as a way to add space without anyone being able to see it from the street. The overall space added is minimal, but necessary, and it satisfies the ordinance. This addition will fit with the street and should be approved. It should be noted that none of the exterior materials are original. The siding and windows were replaced in the 1990s.

1226 Heights—No objection.

This was a terrible design from the beginning, but Staff recommended approval. Blocking the full porch only makes a bad design worse. We are cutting off our noses to spite our faces.

From: Brie Kelman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 16, 2014 7:32 PM
To: Kent Marsh
Subject: Re: FW: Historic District - posting of Certificate of Appropriateness Applications

22. 1301 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition

- Support

23. 1548 Cortlandt St, Alteration-Relocation/Addition

- Support

24. 1431 Columbia St, New Construction-Garage

- Support

25. 1214 Harvard St, Alteration-Addition/Windows

- Abstain as I am helping this neighbor.

26. 1535 Arlington St, New Construction-Garage

- Support

27. 1535 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition

- Support

28. 1232 Arlington St, Alteration-Addition

- Support

29. 1232 Arlington St, New Construction-Garage

- Support

30. 1226 Heights Blvd, New Construction-Residence, *Resubmittal*

- Support - would look a lot better with a 6' porch. I cannot believe they are being forced to do a stoop instead of a porch.

41. 1815 Cortlandt St, New Construction-Residence, *Revision*

- Support

From: Jonathan Smulian
Sent: Saturday, November 15, 2014 10:39 AM
To: Kent Marsh; 'Mark R. Williamson'; 'Bart Truxillo';
 ; 'Brie Kelman'; 'Zucker, Jim'
Subject: RE: Historic District - posting of Certificate of Appropriateness Applications

General Comment :

I am deeply concerned about the current pattern of excessive site coverage resulting from the large rear additions so typical in recent applications for COAs in the Heights. This leads to diminished open and garden space , less permeable land causing increased run-off to the bayous and potential street flooding as well as the demolition of the mature tree cover so important to quality of life and character in the Heights . This s trend of overdevelopment is already having and will eventually have a major negative impact on the special historic character of the neighborhood..

1232 Arlington –support -This proposal represents a great improvement over the existing two additions that were ill conceived and poorly constructed ,

1232 Arlington -new garage -. support

1535 Arlington –garage -no objection

1535 Arlington –addition –no objection

1431 Columbia -support

1548 Cortlandt –object- Over development of a 5000-square foot site .-see general comment above

1815 Cortlandt –no objection

1214 Harvard –object .- window openings and new fenestration proposed is atypical and incompatible with proportions and type of existing fenestration . Historic character of original house would be better preserved if new link between it and the existing garage block could be clearly demarcated by being set back and not seen from the right of way as a continuation of the north facade of the existing house . . .

1226 Heights Blvd,- no objection

1301 Arlington-no objection

From: Charlie [redacted]
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2014 9:29 AM
To: Kent Marsh
Subject: Re: November HAHC Meeting

1232 Arlington - Approved
garage - Approved

1301 Arlington - Approved

1535 Arlington - Approved
garage - Approved

1431 Columbia Garage - Approved

1548 Cortlandt - Really, Really BIG - but Approved

1815 Cortlandt - NOT Approved

1214 Harvard - Approved

1226 Heights - No Application as of 11.13.14

Charlie

From: Charlie [redacted]
Sent: Monday, November 17, 2014 8:22 AM
To: Kent Marsh
Subject: Re: FW: Historic District - posting of Certificate of Appropriateness Applications

Kent,

I want to change a vote on my list after looking at it again.
1548 Cortlandt - NOT Approve
Charlie

November 2014 HAHC Meeting

Comments Regarding Certificate of Appropriateness Applications Submitted for the Houston Heights East Historic District

Agenda Item #22 - 1301 Arlington – I **support** this application. This property is not deed restricted. The proposed addition replaces the same footprint as the existing addition and while the proposed addition is now two stories rather than the original addition of one story, the location of the addition is at the rear of the structure. The proposed addition is no greater in height than the original structure as seen from the front of the property (Arlington).

Agenda Item #23 - 1548 Cortlandt – I **object** to the granting of this CofA. The existing contributing house should not be moved. Moving an existing historical house, even within the same original lot, changes the historical context of the site relationship. While it seems that many of the porches on the houses on the east side of the 1500 block of Cortlandt have been enclosed, the original front wall structure of almost all of the existing structures on the existing block face are located generally in line with the current location of the existing house at 1548 Cortlandt. Visual evidence indicates the rear extension of the existing structure to be a part of the original house and not a later addition. The north side siding and roof eave structure seem to be original. Removal of this rear extension should not be allowed as it is a part of the original historic structure. The proposed addition enlarges the scale of the structure to the point that it would no longer be compatible with the existing scale of the general area. Other recent new construction to the north of the subject tract included a one-story street side addition to gradually reduce the scale of the new two-story construction. This type of scale reduction should be considered for any addition on the subject property. The original 132 feet deep lot was reduced to 100 feet by the sale of the eastern portion of the original lot many years ago. The current owner purchased the reduced lot depth with full knowledge of its smaller-than-typical size. The building mass-to-site relationship will naturally be impacted as a result of the reduced lot depth. The amount of allowable new mass should keep this same context. Otherwise, the scale of the proposed addition will be too great for the location which is even more important for this corner lot condition. Additionally, the proposed replacement of existing eave returns would remove existing historical material and is not necessary.

Agenda Item # 24 - 1431 Columbia (Garage) – I **support** this application. This property is deed restricted. The proposed garage is to be located at the rear of the property in conformance with the deed restrictions and seems to be in a location that may have had a garage structure at one time in the past. The existing sheet metal shed does not seem to be contributing to the historic character of the district and can be demolished without a negative impact.

Agenda Item #25 - 1214 Harvard – I **object** to the granting of this CofA. This property is deed restricted. My objection is based on two major concerns. First, the existing historical structure will be negatively impacted by the cumulative changes proposed on the existing structure. Window changes, door relocations, porch additions, and 2-story extensions from the existing structure (that will require

removal of existing historical material – see/compare existing residence right elevation and proposed right elevation), all visible from the public street right-of-way, will significantly change the existing historic character of the existing structure. Second, the resulting mass form of the proposed in-fill connection between the existing residence and the existing garage with a 2-story structure and porch will be significantly greater than the existing mass form and will not be in context with typical mass relationships for contributing structures in the HHEHD. This proposal will significantly reduce the visual priority generally afforded the existing historical structure and relegate the existing structure to a blend of multiple elements both existing and proposed. This proposal does not satisfy criteria #1, #4, and #9. I respectfully recommend this application for a Certificate of Appropriateness be denied and certainly should not be considered a “Shall Approve” submission. The significant amount of original structural material and the original form of the structure should be retained, even if the siding and windows are no longer original and further degradation of the 1910 Queen Anne style home should not be allowed.

Agenda Item #26 - 1535 Arlington (Garage) – I **support** this application. This property does not have an existing garage and the proposed garage is to be located at the rear of the property in conformance with the deed restrictions. As this proposal has vehicular access from the front street, I do not object to the 3 foot placement from the rear property line and I have alerted the new owners that the garage door proposed on the alley side will not be usable for vehicular access. This is similar to conditions evident just to the north, in that the alley garage door is only used for shop ventilation.

Agenda Item #27 - 1535 Arlington (Addition) – I **support** this application. This property is deed restricted and within a Minimum Lot Size and Minimum Building Setback area. The frontal plane of the proposed addition is slightly larger than the frontal plane of the existing structure. However, the different width of the first and second floor addition provides a visual split and reduction of the impact of the greater frontal plane area and is, therefore, an acceptable design. The windowless wall of the new second story addition does not create a visual conflict with the visual higher-priority one story historical bungalow and creates an appropriate backdrop for the one-story existing bungalow in front of the new two-story addition. The addition of windows on the street side of the new addition would introduce visual competition with the existing historical structure and should not be supported. This house is located directly across the street from my home so I have taken a particularly keen interest on this proposal. I have talked to the new owners several times and I am comfortable they will do their best to preserve the existing historic bungalow while at the same providing an addition that is a reasonable amount of additional floor area when compared to the floor area of the existing house. I support the removal of the additional column on the front porch as the original column spacing with only 4 columns and 3 spaces is typical of this one-story bungalow building type in the HHEHD. I would recommend that consideration be given to the replacement of the non-original front door with one that is more in line with the original period of construction.

Agenda Item # 28 – 1232 Arlington (Addition) – I **support** this application. This property is deed restricted and seems to conform to the restrictions. The frontal plane surface area of the proposed addition is not greater than the frontal surface area of the existing structure (including the second story addition). The existing second floor structure remains with the addition of a slightly greater pitched

roof. The remainder of the addition occurs at the rear of the existing structure with the connection point having different siding materials to indicate the addition from the existing structure.

Agenda Item #29 - 1232 Arlington (Garage) – I **support** this application. This garage is proposed to be detached and at the rear of the property as is typical in the district. Note the proposed 20-foot clearance, noted on the site plan, at the rear of the property between the garage door and the far side of the 15-foot wide alley is not sufficient for vehicular ingress/egress with the garage.

Agenda Item #30 – 1226 Heights Blvd. (Residence – Resubmittal) – I **support** this application. The allowance of a front door stoop in the front of the incorrectly located structure is an acceptable solution that does not compromise the 25-foot front setback and does not provide an unusable front porch. It's unfortunate it has taken the builder such a long time to get to this point. Front door stoops are a typical condition found on contributing structures in the HHEHD.

Agenda Item #41 - 1815 Cortlandt – I **object** to the granting of this CofA revision. This property is not deed restricted. Typically in the HHEHD, windows nearest to the end of an outside wall have a remaining wall width at least the same width as the window. The most recent approved Cof A adheres to this desired relationship but the proposed revision does not. Also, adding a window type not typically found (square windows) in the HHEHD dilutes the historical fabric of the district. The design of exterior window locations should not be strictly governed by changes in interior conditions.

J. Kent Marsh, AICP CUD
1538 Arlington, Houston Heights East Historic District

From: Joy Tober
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 9:53 PM
To: DuCroz, Diana - PD; Kent Marsh
Subject: Thoughts/Comments November HAHC Meeting

Diana, here are my thoughts and comments regarding the COA agenda items for the Houston Heights East Historic District

1301 Arlington – No objection

1548 Cortlandt – Object

This largely out of scale proposed addition on a highly visible corner lot is not compatible with the historic character of the district. The proposed new relocation on the lot is not in keeping with the existing historic setbacks along that street which are currently intact. The proposed addition is out of scale and proportion to the district. Ironically, the applicant shows in the Line of Sight image the visual impact of the addition from Cortlandt Street, but that same image also accurately shows the overwhelming and inappropriate visual impact from 16th street. This proposed addition also encroaches on a significant portion of the original historic home therefore forever destroying historic character and materials.

1431 Columbia St – Support

1214 Harvard – Object

The proposed changes to this contributing structure will drastically alter the original footprint and character of this home as well as destroy existing historic materials. Additions should be subordinate to the original structure and should strive to have as little impact on the original as possible. This proposed addition significantly changes the original scale of the home, effectively creating a new “type” that never existed and destroys a large portion of the south side of the original structure. Attaching a large addition to the garage creates a mass and scale that are not in keeping with the character of the district.

Fenestration is an important architectural characteristic and the proposed resizing and relocating of original window openings not only remove original material but seeks to create an appearance that never existed when the home was built. Also, there does not appear to be any historical evidence to show the home ever had 3/1 windows therefore they should not be allowed.

1535 Arlington (Garage) – Support

1535 Arlington (Addition) – No objection.

Although the location of the addition is in keeping with preservation standards, I feel some more consideration should be given to the impact of the size of the addition in relation to the original structure.

1232 Arlington – Support

1226 Heights – Support

This type of stoop is typical within the district and is a good solution to this unfortunate situation.

1815 Cortlandt – Object.

The proposed new window locations do not follow the same fenestration pattern as seen on contributing structures. The original approved plans were more in keeping with the character of the district.