

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2012**  
**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS**  
**C14H-1980-0025**  
**James R. Johnson House**  
**1412 W. 6½ Street**

**PROPOSAL**

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Construct a new roof, railings, and steps to the rear side porch; install canvas awnings on the upper windows of the rear addition; install double glazed front doors in place of the existing single-leaf door with non-historic sidelights; paint the house; construct a wall for the existing carport to screen the cars from view from the street and adjacent alleys.

**PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS**

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The applicant proposes to construct a new roof to the side porch on the rear addition of the house; the proposed roof will be metal. In addition, the applicant proposes to install a new handrail to replace a badly deteriorated handrail, construct new concrete steps in place of the existing concrete steps, and install new black and white striped canvas awnings on the second-floor windows of the rear addition.

The applicant further proposes to replace the existing non-historic single-leaf wooden front door with double-leaf glazed front doors with leaded glass inserts, and to remove the non-historic sidelights currently existing on the front of the house. The new double-leaf doors will fit exactly into the current door opening, and further investigation leads to the conclusion that the house originally had double-leaf front doors with screen doors, but no photographic evidence of the design of the original front doors remains.

The applicant further proposes to construct a screening wall for the existing carport to help screen the view of the owners' vehicles from the street and adjacent public rights-of-way.

Finally, the applicant proposes to paint the entire house and has chosen freesia (a grayish lavender) for the body of the house with white trim and black screens.

**STANDARDS FOR REVIEW**

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The Commission's Standards for Review of applications for Certificates of Appropriateness include:

- Do not destroy the distinguishing original qualities or character of a building, structure, or site and its environment. Avoid the removal or alteration of any historic material or distinctive architectural features.
- Recognize all buildings, structures, and sites as products of their own time. Do not construct alterations which have no historical basis and which seek to create an earlier appearance.
- Construct new additions or alterations to structures in such a manner that if such addition or alteration were to be removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the structure will be unimpaired.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Committee had concerns about the design and configuration of the proposed new front doors, asking the applicant to seek evidence about the double-leaf configuration. The applicant has responded to the Committee's concerns.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Approve the application as proposed with the proviso that the applicant continue to work with staff to approve the design of the proposed new front doors. There is no photographic evidence of the original design of the front doors and staff can assist in determining a period-appropriate design for the house.



Existing conditions at the site of the proposed side porch roof and installation of canvas awnings.