

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
MARCH 24, 2014
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
C14H-2006-0034
North Austin Sub-Station (Sparky Park)
3701 Grooms Street

PROPOSAL

Rehabilitate the building by replacing/refurbishing existing windows and doors, leaning exterior brick and stone walls, demolition of a portion of an exterior wall, and the addition of a sliding glass door system, outdoor awning structure, and hardscaping.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The applicant proposes to demolish an approximately 21-foot section of the east wall of the building and install a folding glass door system; the east wall of the building is currently blank. In addition, the applicant proposes to construct a new steel canopy above the proposed folding door system with a flat roof and steel supports that pierce the canopy roof and have finials that will contain lights; the finials will resemble insulators on electrical poles. Existing metal doors on the east wall will be replaced with multi-light glazed metal doors.

STANDARDS FOR REVIEW

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.
- Repair, rather than replace deteriorated architectural features wherever possible. In the event replacement is necessary, the new material should match the material being replaced in composition, design, color, texture, and other visual qualities. Base the repair or replacement of missing architectural features on accurate duplications of features, substantiated by historical, physical, or pictorial evidence rather than on conjectural designs or the availability of different architectural elements from other buildings or structures.
- Contemporary design for alterations and additions to existing properties are appropriate when such alterations and additions do not destroy significant historic, architectural, or cultural material and such design is compatible with the size, scale, color, material, and character of the property, neighborhood, or environment.
- 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

Recommend the plans as proposed with recommendations to the applicant to ensure that the flashing is sufficient to keep moisture from penetrating the space between the canopy

and the brick. One Committee member did not like the concept of removing any historic fabric.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve as proposed.