

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JUNE 23, 2014
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
C14H-1978-0035
Jacoby-Pope Building
200 E. 6th Street

PROPOSAL

Erect a continuous steel awning at line between the transom and the top of the doorways on the 6th street elevation of the building, and at the corner doorway at 6th and Brazos Streets.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The applicant proposes the removal of the existing canvas awnings over the individual doorways of the building and constructing a single, steel-framed steel grate awning across the 6th Street elevation of the building, and a smaller awning of similar design at the door on the Brazos Street side of the building closest to the corner of 6th Street. The proposed awnings will have a steel frame with steel brackets, a woven steel mesh grate as the actual sun-shielding material in the ceiling of the awning, and steel tie-rods suspending the awnings in place. All metal on the proposed awnings will be painted matte black. The awning frame will be 5" tall and will extend approximately 3 feet from the building.

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

The Committee was split in its recommendations, with concerns that the design of the awnings was too contemporary for the historic landmark building, and that even accepting

the proposal for its clean lines, that the awnings were too heavy-looking for the building and constituted too much of a presence than was necessary. The Committee recommended that the applicant look at lightening the look of the awnings and simplifying the design. The applicant modified the plans after the Committee meeting, and lightened the awning frame from 6: to 5" and reduced the tie rod width from 3: to 1". The applicant also moved the position of the awning from above the transoms to the line between the transoms and the doors.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff appreciates the applicant's modifications to the plans, and can see this is a much less heavy presence on the building, and staff especially appreciates moving the position of the awning to the line between the transoms and the doorways, but staff still believes that the design is too contemporary for this building, and wonders about the advisability of installing any new feature on the building at all. While it is true that the existing canvas awnings hide the transoms, they are at least in a traditional style and complement the historic character of the building. Staff encourages the applicant to either consider a style and/or materials that are less in contrast to the historic character of the building, or to eliminate the feature altogether.