

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
JULY 14, 2014
APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS
C14H-1976-0012
Morley Brothers Drug Store
209 E. 6th Street

PROPOSAL

Install skid-resistant metal grates over the existing glass blocks in the side walk in front of the building.

PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS

The applicant proposes to install a skid-resistant metal grate over the existing glass blocks in the sidewalk in front of the building. The glass blocks are historic, and have been covered with plywood or plexiglass for the last few months, but the plexiglass covering has been determined unsafe because of the high risk of slipping when the surface is wet. The applicant had first proposed covering the glass blocks with tile to address the dangerous condition; that proposal was denied by the Historic Landmark Commission, who asked that the applicant consider an alternative that would provide the necessary slip resistance while still preserving the visibility of the glass blocks in the sidewalk. The applicant has now proposed a slip-resistant metal grate that will fit over the glass bricks and allow for their visibility from the sidewalk.

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.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Not reviewed.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the application as proposed. The solution for covering the glass bricks with metal grates preserves their visible presence on the sidewalk and presents a good solution for addressing a dangerous situation.

