



SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Historic Preservation Commission Final Motion No. 0049

HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 17, 2010

Hearing Date: February 17, 2010
Filing Date: August 25, 2009
Case No.: **2009.0412A**
Project Address: **1338 Filbert Street**
Historic Landmark: No. 232: 1338 Filbert Street Cottages
Zoning: RH-2 (Residential, House, Two-Family)
40-X Height and Bulk District
Block/Lot: 0524/031-034
Applicant: Andrew Junius, Reuben & Junius
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ADOPTING FINDINGS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS FOR PROPOSED WORK DETERMINED TO BE APPROPRIATE FOR AND CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSES OF ARTICLE 10, TO MEET THE STANDARDS OF ARTICLE 10 AND TO MEET THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION, FOR THE PROPERTY LOCATED ON LOTS 031-034 IN ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 0524, WITHIN AN RH-2 (RESIDENTIAL, HOUSE, TWO-FAMILY) ZONING DISTRICT AND A 40-X HEIGHT AND BULK DISTRICT.

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2009, Andrew Junius of Reuben & Junius (Project Sponsor) filed an application with the San Francisco Planning Department (hereinafter "Department") for a Certificate of Appropriateness to rehabilitate and expand the five existing structures (referred to as Cottages A, B, C, and D and the Studio) located on the subject property located on lots 031-034 in Assessor's Block 0524 for use as four single-family residences. The work includes construction of a single continuous structure in the space located to the east of the cottages (the rear of the cottages) and to the north of the Studio; installation of a below-grade garage; and, restoration of the contributing features of the cottages, studio, and landscape. In total, the project would add approximately 5,895.6 square feet to the existing 5,590.3-square-foot building complex for a total 11,485.9 square feet of residential building space.

- At all cottages, the existing rear (non-contributing) additions would be removed and replaced by a three-story structure, running continuously along the east property line from the north wall of

the historic studio to the rear (north) property line. The structure would be attached to the rear (east) wall of all four cottages and would contain separate living spaces for each cottage.

- Three of the cottages would also be raised approximately 6-12 inches in order to accommodate new concrete foundations and to lift the buildings slightly above grade.
- The currently sloped grade between Cottages A and B and Cottages C and D would be lowered and flattened to match grade at the front of the cottages. Also, gates and a privacy wall would be added in the spaces between the cottages.
- Several new window openings would be created at the side elevations of each cottage, and several non-historic windows/doors would be replaced within the historic openings.
- The roof of the Studio would be raised approximately 14.5 inches to accommodate a new stair where the Studio wall meets the roof of Cottage A. Both the historic slope of the Studio roof and the historic window would be retained.
- The site would be excavated beneath the cottages to create a sub-grade, single-level, eight-car garage, which would be accessed from a car lift located at the south property line. The garage would require a curb cut but would not require the removal of any street trees.
- The historic landscaping and grape-stake fence, which were both contributory features of the site that have since been removed, would be recreated based upon archival and photographic evidence.
- Finally, the project would include historic documentation of the site and construction monitoring by a qualified historic preservation engineer or architect. The existing historic buildings would be documented through either laser scanning or HABS Level II documentation prior to the issuance of building permits to guarantee accurate reconstruction of any historic buildings damaged during construction.

WHEREAS, the Project was determined by the Department to be categorically exempt from environmental review. The Historic Preservation Commission (hereinafter "Commission") has reviewed and concurs with said determination.

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2010, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the current project, Case No. 2009.0412A ("Project") for its appropriateness.

WHEREAS, in reviewing the Application, the Commission has had available for its review and consideration case reports, plans, and other materials pertaining to the Project contained in the Department's case files, has reviewed and heard testimony and received materials from interested parties during the public hearing on the Project.

MOVED, that the Commission hereby grants the Certificate of Appropriateness, in conformance with the architectural plans dated received January 13, 2010 and labeled Exhibit A on file in the docket for Case No. 2009.0412A based on the following findings:

CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

- That the wood-framed windows in new openings at the existing buildings will have a painted finish.
- That the color of the addition's rain screen siding will be at least as dark as the *Golden Khaki Deep* color presented at the hearing.
- That the addition above the studio roof will be set back approximately an additional 4.5 feet from the south property line, but not so much as to impede access to the bedroom level above.
- That the sun screen will be divided into four individual sun screens corresponding to the widths of the cottages below.

FINDINGS

Having reviewed all the materials identified in the recitals above and having heard oral testimony and arguments, this Commission finds, concludes, and determines as follows:

1. The above recitals are accurate and also constitute findings of the Commission.
2. Findings pursuant to Article 10:

The Historical Preservation Commission has determined that the proposed work is compatible with the character of the landmark as described in the designation report dated June 14, 2001.

- The proposed project would retain the residential uses of the historic cottages while reducing the number of units from ten to four, which would bring the buildings more closely into conformance with the prescribed density for the property as well as the historic density at the time that the cottages were constructed in 1907 (four units). While this project would cause a reduction in the number of units associated with the second period of significance (1930s-1972), neither the interior layouts nor the specific residential uses are character-defining features of the property and, therefore, changes to these aspects of the buildings would not negatively impact the site.
- The proposed location of the addition would utilize space on the site that does not currently contribute to the historic character of the landmark and that would require minimal removal of historic materials. Where the addition meets the rear walls of the cottages, the historic openings would be retained and used to access the new spaces.
- The proposed scale of the addition would be compatible with the existing scale of the site and setting. The addition would rise to approximately the same height as the existing retaining wall at the east property line, which currently acts as a backdrop for the historic cottages. It appears that the simple rectangular form and minimally detailed façade of the addition would likewise serve as a backdrop to the cottages. This spatial relationship would allow the addition to recede as a subordinate element of the site.

- The design of the addition would be sufficiently differentiated from the historic buildings through the use of contemporary architectural details while maintaining a compatible appearance through the use of elements such as horizontal wood cladding and framed window openings.
- The proposed changes in height (approximately 6-12 inches at the cottages and 15 inches at the Studio) and grade between the buildings would have a minimal visual and material impact to the primary facades of the buildings and the improved flashing details would increase the longevity of the historic materials.
- The proposed excavation of the site to provide for the below-grade garage would have minimal visual impact to the site upon its completion. The changes to the historic landscaping and brick stairs at the location of the car lift would be in keeping with the character of the site and would not detract from the setting.
- Historic features dating from the periods of significance (cladding, windows, doors, paving, etc.) would be retained in situ wherever possible and severely deteriorated materials would be replaced with features matching the original in terms of design, details, material composition, color, and finish. A conditions survey of the buildings has been conducted to inform the decisions regarding retention and repair or replacement of deteriorated elements and the buildings would be fully documented prior to construction ensure the accurate reconstruction of any elements damaged during renovation of the property. The work would also be monitored by a qualified historic architect or engineer to ensure compliance with historic preservation standards.
- The proposed project would not add any conjectural historical features or features that add a false sense of historical development. The design of the new addition and other new features such as windows and cladding would be clearly distinguished as contemporary features of the site.
- The project would retain distinctive materials and finishes from the period of significance, including the wood siding and wood-frame structure. The project would also salvage and reuse materials taken from the existing rear additions in keeping with the tradition of Marian Hartwell who used salvaged materials in the alterations she made to the cottages.
- If the proposed additions were removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the site would remain intact.
- The proposed project meets the following Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation:

Standard 1.

A property shall be used for its historic purpose or be placed in a new use that requires minimal change to the defining characteristics of the building and its site and environment.

Standard 2.

The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved. The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided.

Standard 3.

Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

Standard 4.

Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

Standard 5.

Distinctive features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property shall be preserved.

Standard 6.

Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

Standard 7.

Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

Standard 9.

New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

Standard 10.

New additions and adjacent or related new construction shall be undertaken in such a manner that if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

3. **General Plan Compliance.** The proposed Certificate of Appropriateness is, on balance, consistent with the following Objectives and Policies of the General Plan:

I. URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT

THE URBAN DESIGN ELEMENT CONCERNS THE PHYSICAL CHARACTER AND ORDER OF THE CITY, AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT.

GOALS

The Urban Design Element is concerned both with development and with preservation. It is a concerted effort to recognize the positive attributes of the city, to enhance and conserve those attributes, and to improve the living environment where it is less than satisfactory. The Plan is a definition of quality, a definition based upon human needs.

OBJECTIVE 1

EMPHASIS OF THE CHARACTERISTIC PATTERN WHICH GIVES TO THE CITY AND ITS NEIGHBORHOODS AN IMAGE, A SENSE OF PURPOSE, AND A MEANS OF ORIENTATION.

POLICY 1.3

Recognize that buildings, when seen together, produce a total effect that characterizes the city and its districts.

OBJECTIVE 2

CONSERVATION OF RESOURCES WHICH PROVIDE A SENSE OF NATURE, CONTINUITY WITH THE PAST, AND FREEDOM FROM OVERCROWDING.

POLICY 2.4

Preserve notable landmarks and areas of historic, architectural or aesthetic value, and promote the preservation of other buildings and features that provide continuity with past development.

POLICY 2.5

Use care in remodeling of older buildings, in order to enhance rather than weaken the original character of such buildings.

POLICY 2.7

Recognize and protect outstanding and unique areas that contribute in an extraordinary degree to San Francisco's visual form and character.

The goal of a Certificate of Appropriateness is to provide additional oversight for buildings and districts that are architecturally or culturally significant to the City in order to protect the qualities that are associated with that significance.

The proposed project qualifies for a Certificate of Appropriateness and therefore furthers these policies and objectives by maintaining and preserving the character-defining features of the 1338 Filbert Street Cottages for the future enjoyment and education of San Francisco residents and visitors.

4. The proposed project is generally consistent with the eight General Plan priority policies set forth in Section 101.1 in that:
 - A) The existing neighborhood-serving retail uses will be preserved and enhanced and future opportunities for resident employment in and ownership of such businesses will be enhanced:

The proposed project is for the restoration of a residential property and will not have any impact on neighborhood serving retail uses.

- B) The existing housing and neighborhood character will be conserved and protected in order to preserve the cultural and economic diversity of our neighborhoods:

The proposed project will strengthen neighborhood character by respecting the character-defining features of the landmark in conformance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

- C) The City's supply of affordable housing will be preserved and enhanced:

The project will not reduce the affordable housing supply as the existing ten units at the property are uninhabitable.

- D) The commuter traffic will not impede MUNI transit service or overburden our streets or neighborhood parking:

The proposed project will not result in commuter traffic impeding MUNI transit service or overburdening the streets or neighborhood parking. It will provide sufficient off-street parking for the proposed units.

- E) A diverse economic base will be maintained by protecting our industrial and service sectors from displacement due to commercial office development. And future opportunities for resident employment and ownership in these sectors will be enhanced:

The proposed will not have any impact on industrial and service sector jobs.

- F) The City will achieve the greatest possible preparedness to protect against injury and loss of life in an earthquake.

Preparedness against injury and loss of life in an earthquake is improved by the proposed work. The work will eliminate unsafe conditions at the site and all construction will be executed in compliance with all applicable construction and safety measures.

- G) That landmark and historic buildings will be preserved:

The proposed project is in conformance with Article 10 of the Planning Code and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards.

- H) Parks and open space and their access to sunlight and vistas will be protected from development:

The proposed project will not impact the access to sunlight or vistas for the parks and open space.

5. For these reasons, the proposal overall, is appropriate for and consistent with the purposes of Article 10, meets the standards of Article 10, and the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, General Plan and Prop M findings of the Planning Code.

DECISION

That based upon the Record, the submissions by the Applicant, the staff of the Department and other interested parties, the oral testimony presented to this Commission at the public hearings, and all other written materials submitted by all parties, the Commission hereby **GRANTS Certificate of Appropriateness No. 2009.0412A.**

Duration of this Certificate of Appropriateness: This Certificate of Appropriateness is issued pursuant to Article 10 of the Planning Code and is valid for a period of three (3) years from the effective date of approval by the Historic Preservation Commission. Implementation of this Certificate of Appropriateness is accomplished by completion of construction work (verified through a job card signed by a District Building Inspector) after issuance of an appropriate Building Permit.

APPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF MOTION: APPEAL: Any aggrieved person may appeal this Motion to the Board of Appeals within fifteen (15) days after the date of this Motion No. 0049. The effective date of this Motion shall be the date of this Motion. For further information, please contact the Board of Appeals in person at 1650 Mission Street, (Room 304) or call 575-6880.

I hereby certify that the Historical Preservation Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Motion on February 17, 2010.

Linda D. Avery
Commission Secretary

AYES: Damkroger, Hasz, Martinez, Matsuda, and Wolfram

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ABSENT: Buckley and Chase

ADOPTED: February 17, 2010