



Project Name/Address: 646 E Gorham, Collins House
Application Type: Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior alterations to a landmark building
Legistar File ID # [39057](#)
Prepared By: Amy L. Scanlon, Preservation Planner, Planning Division
Date Prepared: June 30, 2015

Summary

Project Applicant/Contact: Dawn O’Kroley
Requested Action: The Applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for exterior alterations to a landmark site.

Background Information

Parcel Location: The subject site is a designated landmark site located in James Madison Park.

Relevant Landmarks Ordinance Sections:

- 33.19(5)(b)4. Upon filing of any application with the Landmarks Commission, the Landmarks Commission shall determine:
- a. Whether in the case of a designated landmark or landmark site, the proposed work would detrimentally change, destroy or adversely affect any exterior architectural feature of the improvement upon which said work is to be done;

Analysis and Conclusion

The Collins House was designed in 1908 in the eclectic Prairie Style by the Madison architectural firm of Claude and Starck. The rear porch structure was previously altered.

In order to retain the integrity of landmark buildings, materials and details should be replaced in kind when the original design and materials are known. Elements designed by conjecture are sometimes guilty of creating a false history. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation recommend that new elements be visually different from the historic elements. The Landmarks Ordinance does not take direct guidance from the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards in the treatment of historic structures.

The applicant is proposing to retain the known original architectural features and install infill elements as railings and wall systems where the original appearance of these elements is unknown. The Commission shall determine if the infill elements detrimentally change, destroy or adversely affect any exterior architectural feature of the building.

Recommendation

Staff believes that the standards for granting a Certificate of Appropriateness are met and recommends the following condition of approval:

1. The Applicant shall align the post spacing on the east and west elevations of the upper porch on the window mullions of the first floor porch.
2. The Applicant shall describe the materials used in the cable rail system and the operable glass wall system.