



PREPARED FOR THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Project Address: 417 State Street
Regarding: Status and Condition of 417 State Street (former Sacred Feather)
Prepared By: Heather L. Bailey, Ph.D., Preservation Planner

Background

On Tuesday, March 19, the building at 417 State Street had its brick and stone façade painted black. On Wednesday, the City’s Building Inspection Division issued a notice violation due to the façade change without appropriate approvals. The building is in the Downtown Core (DC) district and major alterations to façades require Urban Design Commission approval.

City staff met with representatives from the property and discussed possible courses of action to remove the paint. Workers onsite had already tested using a pressure washer on a 3’x3’ section, which removed the paint, but also removed the fired surface of the brick, much of the mortar, and significantly pitted the sandstone. Staff provided guidance, based on the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards, for possible products to remove the paint before it fully cured and bonded with the masonry.

On Friday, workers tested a chemical paint stripper, which had minimal results. A representative from the property contacted the City on Friday, March 22, to inform us they were hiring a professional contractor with expertise in graffiti removal. At some point over the weekend, more work was completed on the building. When the City Preservation Planner checked on Monday, most of the paint was removed, but the façade was covered in some type of grit. Some of the surface of the bricks appears damaged, but the sandstone elements appear to have suffered recent deterioration.

Conclusion

While this property is not a landmark or in a historic district, the changes to the façade required approval from the Urban Design Commission. The work was conducted without someone from the property receiving the proper approvals.