

Elmer, Linda

From: Kay Weisman <k_weisman@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 02, 2020 3:33 PM
To: Owczarski, Jim; Elmer, Linda
Subject: 2774 N Grant Blvd, case 191375

Dear Historic Preservation Commission:

I live on the same block as 2774 N Grant Blvd. I walk and drive past its garage every day, and I object to the garage doors proposed. The original doors were carriage style with vertical planks, windows, and decorative hinge & handle hardware, in a color that tied to other colors on the house. The proposed doors look like one step up from the ordinary stamped panel overhead doors seen everywhere. It is not clear from the application whether the decorative hinges are even intended to be included. And if so, it seems it is NOT with a care for historical authenticity, but because it would "help with the approval process."

This is not an ordinary garage. It faces Hadley Street, not the alley, and it was designed specifically to match the house, constructed of the same stone and same roof tile as the house. When Grant Boulevard was first platted, houses had a minimum cost requirement to ensure better quality and design. For over 80 years, this garage held its own, but in 2017, a flipper took it upon himself to "improve" it, and the doors disappeared.

Was there any effort made to get the original doors back after "a contractor" got rid of them? Were they sold, and could they be re-purchased back?

Why not have custom doors built to look like the originals? If the concern is for having remote controlled automatic openers, such things DO exist for swing-style doors. Why was that not considered?

I take our historic district designation seriously, and I am concerned that our district is being slowly dismantled, bit by bit, especially by flippers who aren't part of the neighborhood, and whose only goal is to make a buck. The proposed doors would set a bad precedent for developers and neighbors alike. The trouble with doing a mediocre replacement is that it may be considered "good enough" and won't be replaced for another 50 years. The time to do the job right is now. Our district should be a model showing that historically appropriate work INCREASES the value of a home, not how to skate by with the minimum.

Houses – and garages – of this quality will never be built again in a middle-class neighborhood, and we current owners should be better stewards of them than this proposal. Why must our home values and streetscape be diminished for the personal gain of a hit-and-run flipper?

As I write this on Dec 27, 2019, I see that the house is again for sale, and I also note that the copper gutter on the garage is gone. I hope these circumstances do not lead to a "rush-job" of lower quality. My main concern is to get garage doors there that look close to the original, for the long term good of the district.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Kay Weisman
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