## SECTION 5

Transcript of the
February 6, 2023
Landmark Commission
Hearing
208 Landis Street
CA223-182(RD)



## IN RE: 208 LANDIS STREET

AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF THE LANDMARK MEETING OF CITY OF DALLAS - OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TRANSCRIBED BY MAUREEN C. BRZYCKI, COURT REPORTER

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1	one, or one over one, that exterior
2	doors be craftsman style with a minimum
3	of six lights, that front yard setback
4	be within five percent of the average
5	setback for the block face, that top of
6	foundation be a minimum of 18 inches
7	above grade, and that depth of front
8	porch be a minimum of six feet behind
9	porch columns. Implementation of the
10	recommended conditions would allow for
11	work to be consistent with preservation
12	criteria sections B and C, under new
13	construction and additions. The
14	standards and city codes, Section
15	51A-4.501, subdivision GC, Romanette II
16	for noncontributing structures, and the
17	secretary of interior's guidelines for
18	setting district and neighborhood.
19	
20	Also this was written after the
21	first iteration. The contractor has
22	turned in at least two more. So I have
23	the note that says: After the task
24	force meeting, the applicant submitted





		Page
1	MALE COMMISSIONER: One of the other	
2	conditions that you mentioned was there	
3	was six feet clearance behind the front	
4	column on the porch.	
5	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Correct.	
6	MALE COMMISSIONER: Is that now?	
7	From what I saw before it was to the	
8	front, not to the back.	
9	DR. RHONDA DUNN: To the front?	
10	MALE COMMISSIONER: It was to the	
11	front of the column rather than to the	
12	back of the column, so six foot of clear	
13	space.	
14	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Oh, okay.	
15	It should well, what we have	
16	is their latest iteration. So it sounds	
17	like what you're saying to me is I need	
18	to go back to them again and make sure	
19	they cleared that six feet behind those	
20	columns? Okay.	
21	MALE COMMISSIONER: Yes.	
22	Before I do have a motion,	
23	but do we have the addresses to look at?	
24	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Yes. Hold on.	



		Page 6
1	MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.	
2	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.	
3	(Inaudible) just for you,	
4	Commissioner (inaudible).	
5	MALE COMMISSIONER: Well, I'm sorry	
6	to hear that.	
7	DR. RHONDA DUNN: 1107 East 11th	
8	Street.	
9	MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.	
10	It looks that image is	
11	stretched horizontally. I don't know if	
12	we can see it without the stretching.	
13	DR. RHONDA DUNN: We can, we can.	
14	MALE COMMISSIONER: Because it does	
15	affect if way we understand the	
16	proportions of the porch, which is what	
17	we want to look at. Pretty much. Yeah.	
18	DR. RHONDA DUNN: All right.	
19	So do you want me to we	
20	don't have it (inaudible) answer your	
21	first question for that, so do you want	
22	me to go back	
23	MALE COMMISSIONER: I have image on	
24	Clicker on your account. I have it	







ı		Tage
	1	MALE COMMISSIONER: Oh, gosh. I
	2	don't think I did either. I accessed
	3	this through your City of Dallas page.
	4	That's how I got to it. It's up on my
	5	screen now. I mean, (inaudible).
	6	You're asking me to be technical.
	7	Okay. Okay. Oh, gosh. This
	8	is not how this is supposed to go.
	9	Okay. Wait. Let's see if it
	10	will let me download. Okay. There it
	11	okay. Premium. Open file. Okay. You
	12	know what, it's probably saved, but I'm
	13	going to oh, yeah. No, I have to
	14	find it on my computer, right?
	15	Yep. Okay. Go ahead. What do
	16	you do? Oh, that's you are. Okay.
	17	Excellent. Okay I'll just put the
	18	address in there (inaudible) Dallas. It
	19	should be here. Where should we save
	20	the (inaudible). Wait. Oh, okay.
	21	That's weird. It did it by itself.
	22	Okay. I think. Oh, no. Oh, no maybe
	23	it's at a data (inaudible) overhead.
	24	That's probably that's what it was.



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Page 10
 1
           Okay.
               DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible).
                    Okay. What's the file name?
               MALE COMMISSIONER: The file is 1107
 5
           (Inaudible).
               DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible). It
 6
 7
           just -- it says (inaudible).
               MALE COMMISSIONER: (Inaudible).
 9
               DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
               MALE COMMISSIONER: 1107
10
11
           (inaudible). Do you see it?
12
               DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible).
13
               MALE COMMISSIONER: Can I ask a
14
           question while we're waiting?
15
               MALE COMMISSIONER: Sure.
16
               MALE COMMISSIONER: Do you feel
17
           comfortable and confident that your
18
           concerns can be addressed today and can
19
           be revised without us seeing it or does
20
           this need to come back?
21
               MALE COMMISSIONER: It's going to
22
           need to come back.
23
               MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
24
                    It's going to have to come
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Page 12
           Street. That's what came up.
 1
               MALE COMMISSIONER: I'm not seeing
 3
           any --
               DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible).
 5
               MALE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
 6
               DR. RHONDA DUNN: No, no.
 7
           (Inaudible). Okay. Let's see. I quess
 8
           it only shows one picture on my screen,
 9
           and it's up.
10
               MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
               DR. RHONDA DUNN: Let's go back to
11
12
           the one (inaudible).
13
               MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
14
                    (Inaudible). I may have
15
           questions, but you want me to just make
           a motion?
16
17
               DR. RHONDA DUNN: Yeah.
           (Inaudible).
18
19
               MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Sure.
20
           Sure.
21
               DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
22
              MALE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Okay.
23
                    In the matter of discussion
24
           item number 5, 208 -- let's see. C8
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1	And I'll I'll just lead up	
2	really quickly to say that everyone who	
3	has voiced appreciation for this design	
4	is on the mark. It's incredibly rare	
5	that something comes to us this	
6	appropriately massed and configured and	
7	it's got so much going for it, but it is	
8	not quite there.	
9	Now, of course, I have a	
10	question since we're in discussion. But	
11	why was the tasking force recommendation	
12	about the grading of the property not	
13	addressed in the staff recommendation?	
14	There were two things that task force	
15	addressed. One was the use of concrete	
16	piers, and the other one was the	
17	restoration of the original grade to the	
18	property to match the grade on the lots	
19	on either side.	
20	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.	
21	I think part of what our	
22	discussion was, and what this what	
23	Mr. Johnson's concern was, was in terms	
24	of of well, we basically talked	



Page 15 1 about the foundation. Because I was concerned -- because he felt as if he 2 3 was going to do a concrete on slab foundation. 4 5 MALE COMMISSIONER: Right. DR. RHONDA DUNN: And so that's why 6 7 I came back and said, no we cannot have a concrete on slab. MALE COMMISSIONER: Wait. I'm a 9 little confused. You're saying concrete 10 11 on slab. But you mean concrete on 12 grade. 13 DR. RHONDA DUNN: Well, yes. 14 MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. 15 Because --16 DR. RHONDA DUNN: Concrete on grade. 17 I'm sorry. In other words, it's just going to be the 4-inches. 18 19 MALE COMMISSIONER: Right. 20 DR. RHONDA DUNN: On top of a mound 21 of dirt. MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. 23 But we're still seeing, 24 however, a slab foundation, even though



			Page	16
	1	it's a slab foundation supported on		
	2	piers with kind of looks like with		
	3	kind of a waffle slab, which I'll get to		
	4	later. But since we have this one up on		
	5	the screen.		
	6	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.		
	7	This house on since we're		
	8	trying to establish compatibility and		
	9	the massing on the proposal is great and		
_	10	the configuration on the porch is pretty		
1	L1	good, but where it could use a lot of		
]	12	improvement is in the detailing.		
]	13	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.		
1	4	MALE COMMISSIONER: And this house		
]	. 5	is already one that can go into the		
]	. 6	direction of a craftsman's house, and		
]	7	the craftsman that you see there that we		
1	. 8	lost, it was demolished in December		
1	9	2018, which is really tragic because it		
2	20	really was one of our finest craftsman's		
2	21	houses and had the greatest historic		
2	22	integrity. All those windows are		
2	2.3	boarded up, but when you look on the		
2	2.4	other side, they're in tact. So it was		



		Page I
1	really a great loss for the district.	
2	And you can see that this	
3	really thorough going craftsman house	
4	has the brackets, which are absent on	
5	the applicant's proposal. But really	
6	should be present if we're going to	
7	treat this as a craftsman house, and	
8	it's so far in that direction, we really	
9	should. This is not an in-between kind	
10	of house. It is a craftsman's house,	
11	but it lost the brackets. And for those	
12	brackets to be in proper relation with	
13	the columns, they're really going to	
14	need to provide a sided beam above the	
15	columns.	
16	See can see how all of those	
17	columns, they don't just go right up to	
18	the roof eve, or just a neuro facia	
19	board or something. There's actually a	
20	sided beam that gives us room to	
21	position the brackets over the columns,	
22	so that we understand, support, and	
23	weightbearing being transferred to the	
24	columns. The other thing that if you	



		rage
1	look at where the columns, the brackets	
2	and the eves all come together, you see	
3	that the eves on the applicants proposal	
4	are really too short.	
5	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.	
6	MALE COMMISSIONER: You know,	
7	those those aren't record tales,	
8	they're record stubs. And we got to get	
9	away from that look, and you can see how	
10	the eve is stretched. This example we	
11	lost on the 1107 site has a proportional	
12	grace because all of the those three	
13	elements, the bracket, the supporting	
14	column and the eve come together in kind	
15	of an uncrowded harmony where each one	
16	gets a chance to express itself. And	
17	that sided beam that is supported by the	
18	columns is something that we read the	
19	extended rafter tails against. So you	
20	don't have the brackets that are pushed	
21	out unnaturally toward the edge of the	
22	rafters or that's uncomfortably interior	
23	where it looks like there's too much of	
24	the rafter (inaudible) off of the beam.	



1	The other thing that is missing
2	on the applicant;s proposal that you see
3	clearly on 1107 East 11th is a very
4	defined wide barge board, which is
5	that it's actually a piece of facia,
6	or it could be supported. But it's that
7	final expression, exterior expression of
8	the rafters that is supported by the
9	brackets. And generally on a design
10	like this, the tips of the brackets, the
11	horizontal projections of brackets will
12	pierce through the barge board and
13	you'll see them expressed. And often
14	they'd be tampered or cut in a pyramid
15	pattern. So you see it expressed on the
16	outside of the barge board.
17	Moving down the column, the
18	applicant did provide us with a two-part
19	column. But instead of a cap that he
20	could replicate in a wind wall below the
21	square brick column, he put a grow
22	oflike a I guess you call it a
23	(inaudible) course. It's really an end
24	course of brick. Much better to go with



		Page
1	a concrete cap like you see or a	
2	capstone or a stone cap like you see in	
3	this illustration.	
4	So to just wrap up on that, I	
5	mean, what he's got and then there's	
6	like at the base of the flared column,	
7	there's a weird kind of molding that I	
8	can't tell what it's doing, but we	
9	really need to see that detail.	
10	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.	
11	MALE COMMISSIONER: Perhaps put on a	
12	larger scale, so we can see what's	
13	really going on there. Because that is	
14	what greets the visitor. That is the	
15	most appealing engaging element of the	
16	the structure. And it may be necessary	
17	to widen the steps and perhaps introduce	
18	a brick I guess you call it like a	
19	half column that doesn't go all the way	
20	up to support the roof. It's just apt	
21	just for the purpose of finishing the	
22	step with a wind wall on either side and	
23	having it die comfortably into a brick	
24	column.	



		Page 21
1	So I think what we're saying is	
2	if this applicant were to reference this	
3	particular example in working through	
4	all the details, you'd have a really	
5	exemplary addition to the 10th Street	
6	District.	
7	Now, if we can go to the other	
8	one that will address the issue of the	
9	grade, the contours.	
10	And this example, by the way,	
11	is probably about six lots down, just	
12	like not even a block away from the	
13	applicant's. So it's highly it's	
14	local even within the district. Let's	
15	see	
16	DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible).	
17	MALE COMMISSIONER: Are we in	
18	Google's preview, or are we	
19	DR. RHONDA DUNN: No. I	
20	(inaudible).	
21	MALE COMMISSIONER: (inaudible).	
22	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Yeah.	
23	MALE COMMISSIONER: Because I don't	
24	know if (inaudible) anymore.	



		Page 22
1	DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible).	
2	FEMALE COMMISSIONER: I would advise	
3	that the members of the commission do	
4	that on Google Streets. It really	
5	should come from staff so members of the	
6	public can also see what they're basing	
7	their decision off of that.	
8	MALE COMMISSIONER: That we jumped	
9	into Google Street view?	
10	FEMALE COMMISSIONER: That you not.	
11	Correct.	
12	MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Okay.	
13	That's it. Okay.	
14	MALE COMMISSIONER: I have a basic	
15	question.	
16	Is the staff taking copious	
17	notes? I just want to make sure that	
18	what you're saying gets to the	
19	applicant.	
20	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Staff is	
21	attempting to take copious notes, but	
22	also there will be a recording.	
23	MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. A	
24	recording.	



		rage 20
1	I just want to make sure	
2	this is very important. I just want to	
3	make sure there is nothing lost in the	
4	translation.	
5	MALE COMMISSIONER: Right right.	
6	And while we wait for this to	
7	come up, I also want to add there was	
8	some reference made I think it got	
9	corrected in the applicant's proposal,	
10	but I just want to be clear on aluminum	
11	windows on 10th Street, which are only	
12	approved for storm windows and storm	
13	doors.	
14	You can use aluminum window on	
15	a storm window or a storm door. And	
16	then it must be painted. It cannot be	
17	a	
18	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Mill finish?	
19	MALE COMMISSIONER: Mill finish.	
20	Thank you. Cannot be a mill finish.	
21	DR. RHONDA DUNN: It is not coming	
22	up	
23	MALE COMMISSIONER: Oh.	
24	That is so unfortunate because	



		Pa
	1	this is one of the best illustrations of
	2	the point I'm trying to make, which is
l	3	about how 10th Street houses meet the
ĺ	4	ground. And they meet the ground as
	5	they find it. And this particular house
	6	is only about half it's only two lots
	7	away from the lot under discussion, from
	8	the applicant's lot. So although it
	9	faces North Street, the (inaudible) of
	10	North Street is showing us is the grade
	11	of that lot in elevation or like
	12	almost like oh, there we go.
	13	Perfect. Perfect. And can we see the
	14	bottom where the staircase comes down to
	15	meet North Street because it shows
	16	how I mean, there is a there is a
	17	procession that is created to get to
	18	this house because this house is
	19	(inaudible) with the grade. And this is
	20	what makes 10th Street a really a
	21	district like no other. The ad hoc
	22	responses to things like grade level
	23	as or like on the lot size, whatever,
	24	as they are found. So okay. We can't



1	see it all at once. But I hope y'all
2	are getting the idea of how and
3	imagine when you see the grades sloping
4	from the right side of the picture to
5	the left side of the picture, you are
6	seeing in side view, the way that this
7	lot slopes. It starts out at the
8	side the right hand elevation, and it
9	slopes down and eventually, you know the
10	land gets all the way to the street.
11	So I also while we're
12	looking at this, you can see the skirt
13	on the left hand side is deep enough to
14	stand in to stand up in. And now,
15	you might say, well, but it's not as
16	severely sloped on the applicant's lot
17	as it is on this where you actually got
18	slopes in two directions. But the
19	problem is when you say, well, we're
20	going to allow slabs, then you have a
21	condition where the applicant has an
22	incentive to flatten out the lot before
23	the process starts. In other words, and
24	this is what apparently happened here is



1	that there was unauthorized work done to
2	regrade the lot. So they can say, well,
3	we have a flat lot. But as you can see,
4	the land on this lot is nowhere near
5	flat. So it's really important that
6	they use a post foundation, which is
7	more than 95 percent of the houses in
8	10th Street. There's just a few from
9	the very late twenties that have a pier
10	and (inaudible) foundation. And really
11	we shouldn't say pier and (inaudible)
12	because that always implies a concrete
13	perimeter skirt beam like a concrete
14	perimeter beam. And these houses, you
15	can see, they do not have even though
16	this applicant who did an exemplary job
17	on this house just a couple of years
18	ago, it's really a almost a model of
19	how you should do a 10th Street house.
20	There was you can see like
21	at the left hand side where the the
22	crawl space is a standup space
23	basically. And behind that corrugated
24	foundation skirt, there used to be a



		Page	27
1	cedar beam a cedar pier rather a		
2	cedar post. And the cedar post was		
3	taken out, and it was replaced by a		
4	concrete post. And that's fine. I		
5	think the cedar post really ought to		
6	suffice, but that is an appropriate		
7	approach to a 10th Street foundation.		
8	And that's exactly what this applicant		
9	did. He kept a post foundation, but he		
10	just substituted a concrete post and		
11	since these posts are almost never open		
12	and visible, although they were		
13	sometimes, you'll see the notation open		
14	underneath on a lot of these 10th Street		
15	houses that have this much standup space		
16	under the first floor. It the		
17	concrete post is the way to go.		
18	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.		
19	So		
20	MALE COMMISSIONER: That keeps		
21	people from cheating, basically and		
22	trying to do their regrading before they		
23	ever present something to you.		
24	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.		



1	MALE COMMISSIONER: Which is what
2	this guy did. We can see it on even
3	on the photograph we referenced during
4	the briefing. We can see he regraded
5	the lot with a considerable amount of
6	material to make it flat and 10th Street
7	is one of the hilliest districts that we
8	have, even though Wheatley Place and
9	10th Street have a lot of similarities,
10	Wheatley Place (inaudible) historic
11	period begins in 1960 when it was
12	(inaudible) by Alex Camp, and it's very
13	nearly flat. 10th Street goes back to
14	1888 when the first (inaudible) lots
15	were (inaudible) by W.J. Veterton, and
16	even those were incredibly sloped.
17	Those are ones in front of the cemetery,
18	and I think we all know what the grade
19	changes are like there. So anyway, I
20	thank you all.
21	I'm ready for it to come to a
22	vote. But this is just such a great
23	opportunity to address these things
24	about 10th Street that are often



		Page	29
1	underappreciated. Oh, the other one		
2	last thing, we don't really require that		
3	they use impervious or non-rotting		
4	materials. A lot of 10th Street houses		
5	have 117 that goes all the way down		
6	to the ground. But of course, that is		
7	100-120 year old wood that lasts a lot		
8	longer in contact with the ground than		
9	what we have now. Thanks.		
10	DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.		
11	Does anyone else have any		
12	comments on the motion? Remember that		
13	way back when?		
14	Sure.		
15	MALE COMMISSIONER: (inaudible) the		
16	grade that grade (inaudible)		
17	fluctuation over time. (Inaudible) what		
18	are thoughts on that? (Inaudible)		
19	strategy when building?		
20	MALE COMMISSIONER: I'm not sure		
21	you said grade fluctuation; Are you		
22	talking about tell me what you mean		
23	by fluctuation. As a result of what?		
24	Oh, erosion. Erosion. Okay. Well, if		



		Page 30
1	people are keeping the ground reasonably	
2	covered, you know, with (inaudible) and	
3	stuff, the erosion is really going to be	
4	minimal. And we in older houses	
5	that like this one, that they have	
6	largely retained their dimensional	
7	stability indicating there's been very	
8	little erosion that has changed the	
9	height of those piers.	
10	MALE COMMISSIONER: One other	
11	observation I'd like to add and the fact	
12	they've come back with a bunch of	
13	(inaudible) on that existing site is	
14	that that's going to subside because	
15	that's only been there a few months	
16	compared to years of what's underneath	
17	it. Yeah. You get rid of it?	
18	MALE COMMISSIONER: You take it off.	
19	MALE COMMISSIONER: Yeah.	
20	MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.	
21	I mean, during the permit	
22	process, I'm presuming the city is going	
23	to acquire a erosion control plan, and	
24	also a grading plan, and drainage plan,	





		Page	32
1	COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: Let's start		
2	with that.		
3			
4	(Whereupon, the excerpt requested ended.)		
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