



# SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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## Historic Preservation Commission Motion 0234

HEARING DATE: AUGUST 6, 2014

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*Filing Date:* March 25, 2014  
*Case No.:* **2014.0425A**  
*Project Address:* **981 Grove Street**  
*Landmark District:* Alamo Square  
*Zoning:* RH-2 (Residential, House, Two-Family)  
40-X Height and Bulk District  
*Block/Lot:* 0803 / 024  
*Applicant:* William Duff Architects  
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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 LOT 024 IN ASSESSOR'S BLOCK 0803, WITHIN AN RH-2 (RESIDENTIAL, HOUSE, TWO-FAMILY) ZONING DISTRICT AND A 40-X HEIGHT AND BULK DISTRICT.**

### **PREAMBLE**

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2014, Jim Westover of William Duff Architects, Inc., (Project Sponsor) filed an application with the San Francisco Planning Department (hereinafter "Department") for a Certificate of Appropriateness to rehabilitate and expand a single-family residence located on the subject property on lot 024 in Assessor's Block 0803 for continued use as a single-family residence. The work includes construction of a single-story vertical addition set back from the primary facade; excavation of a below-grade horizontal addition; and reorientation of the entry stairs and regrading of the driveway in addition to setting the non-historic garage pop-out back to align with the historic primary facade. In total, the project will add approximately 1,058 square feet to the existing 2,300-square-foot building for a total of 3,450 square feet of habitable space.

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 August 6, 2014, the Commission conducted a duly noticed public hearing on the current project, Case No. 2014.0425A ("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 July 28, 2014 and labeled Exhibit A on file in the docket for Case No. 2014.0425A based on the following findings:

### **CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL**

- The project sponsor shall construct the proposed stair to match the width of the historic entry stair. The existing width of the driveway shall be maintained, with additional space provided by an elevated planter to the west of the reconstructed stair. The stairs shall jog as far east as possible while not impacting the existing cherry tree.
- The project sponsor shall use a smooth-finished concrete wall for the new retaining walls flanking the driveway.
- The project sponsor shall complete a site visit with Department preservation staff prior to occupancy in order to verify compliance with the approved project description and conditions of approval.

### **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.

- The proposed project will retain the residential use while adding a second story and minimal rear horizontal addition to support the contemporary use of the building. The proposal additionally includes work that will alter the non-historic driveway and entry stairs.
- The proposed vertical will be minimally visible from the public right-of-way and will require minimal removal of historic materials.

- The proposed scale of the addition will be compatible with the existing scale of the building, rising less than 4' from the existing roofline and adequately set back from the parapet to minimize visibility.
- The design of the vertical addition will 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 wood-framed window openings.
- Alterations to the side façades will be minimal and will not be visible from the public right-of-way. All new materials will be compatible with the existing historic fabric.
- The reconstruction of the garage will return the return the historic bay to a condition closer to the historic design.
- The proposed rear horizontal addition will be minimal in scale and will not be visible from any public right-of-way.
- The proposed alterations to the driveway and landscape would be in keeping with the streetscape of the district.
- The proposed excavation of the site to provide for the below-grade rear addition will not be visible from the public right-of-way.
- The proposed project will 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 will be clearly distinguished as contemporary features of the property.
- The project will retain distinctive materials and finishes from the period of significance, including the decorative elements, wood siding, and wood-frame structure.
- If the proposed additions were removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the site will 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 will 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 981 Grove Street and the Alamo Square Historic District 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 a Certificate of Appropriateness** for the property located at Lot 024 in Assessor's Block 0803 for proposed work in conformance with the renderings and architectural sketches dated July 28th and labeled Exhibit A on file in the docket for Case No. 2014.0425A.

**APPEAL AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF MOTION:** The Commission's decision on a Certificate of Appropriateness shall be final unless appealed within thirty (30) days. Any appeal shall be made to the Board of Appeals, unless the proposed project requires Board of Supervisors approval or is appealed to the Board of Supervisors as a conditional use, in which case any appeal shall be made to the Board of Supervisors (see Charter Section 4.135).

**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. The authorization and right vested by virtue of this action shall be deemed void and canceled if, within 3 years of the date of this Motion, a site permit or building permit for the Project has not been secured by Project Sponsor.

**THIS IS NOT A PERMIT TO COMMENCE ANY WORK OR CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY UNLESS NO BUILDING PERMIT IS REQUIRED. PERMITS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION (and any other appropriate agencies) MUST BE SECURED BEFORE WORK IS STARTED OR OCCUPANCY IS CHANGED.**

I hereby certify that the Historical Preservation Commission ADOPTED the foregoing Motion on August 6, 2014

Jonas P. Ionin  
Acting Commission Secretary

AYES: Commissioners Hasz, Wolfram, Hyland, Johnck, Johns, Matsuda, Pearlman

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ADOPTED: August 6, 2014