HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Property Address: 3035 Rodman Street, NW Agenda

Landmark/District: **Cleveland Park Historic District** X Consent Calendar

X Concept Review

Meeting Date: May 25, 2017

X Alteration H.P.A. Number: 17-247

New Construction Staff Reviewer: **Steve Callcott** Demolition

Subdivision

Architect Richard Loosle Ortega of Kube Architecture, for owners Frederico Ash and Ana Barac, seeks conceptual design review for a rear addition on a bungalow in the Cleveland Park Historic District.

Property Description

3035 Rodman Street is a one-story frame bungalow with a prominent front-facing gable over a recessed front porch. It was built in 1921 by builder John Lewis for an estimated cost of \$5,000. The house was designed and pre-fabricated by Sears, Roebuck and Company as part of their mail-order Modern Homes program. Between 1908 and 1940, Sears designed 447 different house styles, with an estimated 75,000 pre-fabricated house kits sold. There are several other known Sears houses in the Cleveland Park Historic District (including 3511 Porter and 3024 Macomb) and likely others that are not yet documented, as mail-order houses from Sears and other companies were extremely popular throughout the country during the first decades of the 20th century. The model at 3035 Rodman was known as "the Elsmore," described as "a popular, inexpensive and graceful bungalow."

The house retains its original form and overall character albeit with some alterations. The dormer on the west side and north rear roof slopes and a small one-story bump out on the first floor rear elevation appear to have been added after the initial construction, one window opening on each of the west and north elevations appear to have been expanded and replaced with picture windows, and skylights and windows in the front dormer have been added.

The house abuts Melvin Hazen Park on the west and north.

Proposal

The project calls for adding additions at the basement, first and second story levels. The basement addition would extend approximately 12'5" from the rear wall measure 33' in width, with a slightly canted rear wall reflecting the rear yard setback. The first floor addition would extend 7' off the rear and measure 22' wide, with the remainder of the roof of the basement addition finished as a deck. The second story addition would include a small cross gable dormer on the east side (to balance an existing dormer on the west), and a flat-roofed dormer across the back of the house. The additions would be clad in Hardi-panel siding.

Evaluation

The proposal has been studied in consultation with HPO and a variety of options considered. Throughout the discussion, HPO has encouraged that the addition respect the massing and roof form of the house, which consists of a one-story block capped by a low sloping roof with overhanging eaves. The current solution is respectful of the house's form and massing, with the majority of the addition located at the basement and first floor levels, and a smaller dormer addition at the roof which is pulled back from the plane of the rear wall and retains the overhanging eave. As the design of this rear dormer continues to be developed, its compatibility would be improved if its roof were sloped slightly to the rear (as is common for a shed dormer), if it included square or vertically-oriented on the visible side walls, and the scale of its siding be reduced.

Recommendation

The HPO recommends that the Review Board approve the general concept as consistent with the character of the Cleveland Park Historic District and delegate final approval to staff, contingent on revisions to the roof slope, side window orientation, and scale of material on the rear dormer.

