# HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Property Address: 3309 Woodley Road, NW Agenda

Landmark/District: Cleveland Park Historic District X Consent Calendar

**X** Concept Review

Meeting Date: January 27, 2022 X Alteration

H.P.A. Number: 22-034 New Construction

Demolition

Owner Harbinder Gosal seeks conceptual design review for reconstructing the front porch roof overhang on her house in the Cleveland Park Historic District.

### **Property History and Description**

3309 Woodley Road was constructed in 1921, designed by the prolific Washington architect George Santmyers. The house exhibits a blend of Craftsman, Tudor and Chalet style detailing, with stucco-clad walls and overhanging roof eaves supported by wood brackets. At some point, the exterior of the house was remodeled, with some of the half-timbering detailing removed.

The front porch roof overhang, also stucco and with half-timbering and decorative wood brackets, extends 4' from the front façade and is unsupported except by the brackets; evidently this support has proven insufficient, as the overhang is sagging and appears to be pulling away from the house. The original base of the porch extends 8' from the house so that the overhang only extends half the depth of the porch.

#### **Proposal**

The project calls for reconstructing the porch roof to extend 8' from the façade, to align with the original porch base, and with columns supporting it to provide structural support. The precise design has not yet been developed; the owner is merely seeking conceptual approval for the idea of changing the proportions of the overhang before hiring an architect to develop a specific plan.

#### **Evaluation**

While it is unclear whether the overhang originally extended the full 8' to align with the porch, the current condition where it leaves half the porch uncovered is peculiar and the overhand appears proportionally truncated and is showing evidence of being structurally insufficient. The submission documents several houses in close proximity to the subject property that have the same porch overhang detailing and proportions as what the applicant is proposing. While more detailed design work will be needed to develop the proposal, including how original materials such as the brackets will be reused, the proposed reconstructed porch is compatible in form, size and projection with the house and others in the Cleveland Park Historic District.

## Recommendation

The HPO recommends that the Review Board find the concept compatible with the property and historic district, and that final construction plan approval be delegated to staff.

Staff contact: Steve Callcott