
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
STAFF REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Property Address:	3618 Ordway Street NW	Agenda
Landmark/District:	Cleveland Park Historic District	X Consent Calendar
		X Concept Review
Meeting Date:	October 26, 2017	X Alteration
H.P.A. Number:	18-004	New Construction
Staff Reviewer:	Michael Robb	Demolition
		Subdivision

Property owner Pamela C. Steele requests concept review for construction of a covered front portico with a side ramp.

The house is a two-story, three bay Colonial Revival detached frame house designed in the Federal Style. It was built in 1913 by Louis T. Rouleau. The house is substantially set back from Ordway Street and sits on a wooded berm above the street.

Proposal

This project proposes a portico with two columns and a gable front with a brick stoop leading to the front entry. Also proposed is an aluminum ramp with a brick foundation and a picket railing that connects to the portico and front entry, and then wraps around to the east elevation.

Evaluation

Additions to the front façade of contributing buildings are often difficult because they are more likely to alter or diminish the significance and original appearance of the historic structure. For this reason, it is typically encouraged that significant alterations be located at secondary elevations.

In this case, however, considered design decisions and material selection help reduce the impact of the proposed alterations and result in a solution that is compatible with the house's architectural character. The front portico is scaled and detailed in a manner that is compatible with the house's modest character, with the two columns and front gable portico serving as an extension of the existing door surround and pediment. The ramp, maintained at the level of the house's foundation, prevents it from being visually prevalent and the picket railing and brick foundation are materials that are compatible with the existing structure.

Recommendation

The HPO recommends that the Review Board find the concept for alterations to be compatible with the character of the historic district, and delegate final approval to staff.