

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

Landmark/District:	Congressional Cemetery Gatehouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Agenda
Property Address:	1801 E Street SE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent Calendar
Meeting Date:	December 19, 2019	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concept Review
HPA Number	19-546	<input type="checkbox"/> New Construction
Staff Reviewer:	Anne Brockett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alteration

Working with Teass/Warren Architects and Moody Graham Landscape Architecture, Historic Congressional Cemetery seeks concept review for the construction of a side porch on the gatehouse and landscape changes near the E Street entrance to the cemetery.

Congressional was founded in 1807 and was designated as a DC Landmark in 1964, listed in the National Register in 1969, and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011. In addition to its thousands of gravemarkers, notable cenotaphs, and historic landscape, the grounds include two major buildings, the chapel and gatehouse, the latter constructed in 1922-24 to replace an 1832 structure. The gatehouse functioned historically as an office and residence for the cemetery's sexton.

Project Description

The project proposes to add a covered porch on the side of the gatehouse in the current location of the side door and a concrete stoop. The simple construction would be frame with 6x6 columns supporting a shed roof clad with standing seam metal. A wood railing would enclose the porch with steps leading to a new brick walk facing the gate.

The plans also include removal of a non-historic open wood structure near the gate and construction of a new brick patio with seat wall. Another paved area with low wall would be added further along the entrance drive around an existing water spigot.

Evaluation and Recommendation

The HPO recommends approval of the project in concept. The porch is appropriately scaled for the building to which it is being attached. It is consistent with porch design and materials for a 1920s residential building.

The applicant and architects have worked with the HPO to shrink the porch and simplify its design and materials in order to become more compatible. However, the simplification of the details may be too much, and it is recommended that a cap to the columns and simple moldings around the roof beams be added. Further, it is recommended that a hip roof be explored, given the hip roof on the gatehouse and the large amount of exposed cladding necessitated by a shed roof. The HPO recommends against a metal railing attached to the building. If a railing is required by code, it should be a picket rail that matches the porch railing and be located on the outboard side of the steps. The ceiling should be finished with beadboard and all products should be wood without PVC or other composite cladding.

The staff supports the landscape changes but recommends against consideration of additional paving in this area in the future, since it will be largely covered with hardscape upon completion of this project.

The HPO recommends that the Board find the proposal compatible with the character of Congressional Cemetery and its gatehouse, with the comments above, and delegate final approval to HPO staff.