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

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Landmark/District: **Scheele-Brown Farmhouse** (pending nomination) (x) Agenda  
Address: **2207 Foxhall Road NW** (x) Concept  
Meeting Date: **December 4, 2014** (x) Alteration  
Case Number: **15-066** (x) Move  
Staff Reviewer: **Tim Dennée**

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The applicant, owner Chantal Attias, requests the Board's review of a conceptual application to move a two-story frame house from 2207 Foxhall Road to a new lot to be subdivided from a portion of the Field School property immediately to the north (part of assessment and taxation Lot 856 in Square 1341). The Field School would accept the donation of the building, which is connected to the history of the school parcel, and the applicant would redevelop her lot with a larger house.

This is an informational presentation, as the property is not designated but has a landmark nomination pending. The landmark application, attached, is not being reviewed at this time, but is likely to be scheduled for January. The property owner would like the Board's feedback on the proposal prior to that hearing.

The building is an 1865 farmhouse built for the family of Augustus Daniel Scheele. It was subsequently occupied by the family of butcher and farmer Walter Brown. The original construction included the main block and the catslide-roofed rear wing. In 1903, the house was moved to its present spot from a site about 150 feet to the north-northeast, at the south edge of the present Field School parking lot.

In order to move the house today, a new lot would have to be carved out of the Field School property, in the grassy area between the house's present lot and the berm atop which sits the school parking lot. Technically, the Board is not now reviewing a subdivision, as the lot to be created is neither designated, nor presently within the proposed landmark boundary. Yet, the Board should comment on the appropriateness of the location and extent of the proposed receiving lot. The question of the appropriate boundary for the potential landmark will need to be resolved at the time of the designation hearing.

In preparation for the move, the enclosed rear porches, pantry shed addition, and the second-story bathroom would be demolished, bringing the house back to roughly its 1865-1903 exterior appearance. The kitchen chimney is proposed for removal, and the parlor chimney would probably have to be reconstructed.

## Evaluation

The move of a building is typically harmful from a preservation point of view, as it reduces its integrity of location and setting, and likely its integrity of feeling and association. Relocation is an incompatible treatment if it leaves the building in an inappropriate setting. In this instance, however, the move would take the farmhouse farther north, closer to its original site. Both the present site and the proposed one are within the former boundaries of the Scheele and Brown farms and within the limits of the lot Edith Brown owned from 1902 to 1918.

The new lot would require some site work: a foundation, of course, and probably some re-grading and drains around the building because of the slope from the adjacent school parking lot. The house will not be set as far back from the road as it is now, or as it was before 1903, to avoid a storm drain. The Field School will use the building without an additional curb cut and drive off Foxhall.

The plans propose a sidewalk from the parking lot, however, to meet the public sidewalk at an oblique angle in front of the house (see Sheets A002 and A003). This seems odd in the context of a truncated front yard for the historic building. The walk would be redundant as the parking lot is already connected to the public sidewalk. A new walk might be more direct in plan view, assuming one were coming from the southwest corner of the lot, but that path would come over the berm and through trees.

## Recommendation

*The HPO recommends that the Board find the conceptual plan for relocation to be compatible, except for the walk across the front yard, and delegate to staff further review.*

