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

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Landmark/District:	<b>Mount Pleasant Historic District</b>	(x) Agenda
Address:	<b>2051 Park Road NW</b>	
Meeting Date:	<b>October 22, 2020</b>	(x) Alteration
Case Number:	<b>20-419</b>	(x) Permit

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The applicant, Pablo Grijalva, agent for property owners Sarah Guy and Alexander Yabroff, requests the Board’s review of a permit application to construct a freestanding vehicle gate at the line of the alley behind the subject property, a 1911 rowhouse built by developers Middaugh & Shannon. Almost immediately, sheds and garages began to be constructed behind the new row, and many of them remain. Today, the alley is characterized by many small garages, often abutting, sometimes ramshackle, mostly with steel doors and sometimes metal siding.

The proposed gate would abut a garage on one side and a fence on the other. The applicant has attempted to disguise the gate as a garage, with the addition of a pediment. This could be successful, despite heightening the structure, if the pediment is principally of a traditional material, and not all PVC (as noted). The drawings are being revised in accordance with direction from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, which has reviewed the project pursuant to the Shipstead-Luce Act.

Far from a street corner, surrounded by modest and highly altered garages, and with an effort to blend in with its surroundings, this is almost an ideal situation for such a gate in this historic district—but a paint finish on the gate is still recommended.

**Recommendation**

*HPO recommends that the Board recommend in favor of clearance of the permit application for a roll-up vehicle gate at this property as sufficiently retentive of the character of the property and compatible with the character of the historic district generally, with the conditions that the gate be painted, and the pediment be faced with an appropriate material. HPO requests delegation of further review, as some design tweaks are expected from the Commission of Fine Arts review.*