

Good Day Maria,

We just took some time to go over the agenda for this month's Historic Preservation Board meeting. We notice once again, with the inclusion of 618 N. 2nd (roof and windows), that the board will have the opportunity to either preserve or irreparably alter the historic of character Fort Pierce.

Unfortunately, we will not be there to testify against the changes proposed.

We are heartened, though, by the clear citations you have given of Secretary of the Interior rules and guidelines, to demonstrate the incompatibility of the applicant's application. Staff's argument for repair of the roof and windows (which is eminently achievable) must be strenuously defended. It is unfortunate that we will not be there to lend voice in support of your defense.

We wanted to offer some points as to why disapproval of this application should be sustained:

1. Scope of work outlined for the amount of repair required is excessive given eminent repairability of both the roof and windows.
2. Repairing existing roof and windows is considerably cheaper and, most important, preserves the historic character of subject property. Replacing a set of damaged tiles to arrest a leak, at an average cost of approximately \$4 a tile, results in a substantially less costly project.
3. There are numerous examples of original embossed metal shingle roofs in Fort Pierce that withstood hurricane Matthew and stronger hurricanes with no negative impact. (e.g. 526 N. 2nd St, 714 Boston Ave, 809, 815 Atlantic Ave & 826 Atlantic Ave, guest house, and many others within and without historic districts.) **At 714 Boston, the roof is nearly 100 years old!**
4. Embossed metal shingle roofs are well suited for effective spot repair. Here are links from which they can be sourced: a. http://www.berridge.com/products_2/berridge-metal-shingles/berridge-victorian-classic-metal-shingles/, b. <https://heatherandlittle.com/shingles-and-tiles/roof-tiles/>, c. http://embossedtinshingle.com/Articles/Buy_new_metal_shingles.html, d. <http://wfnorman.com/products/roofing/> The presentation of the original materials and workmanship should always be the first consideration because that is our magical link with the past.
5. The embossed metal shingle roof is a significant and distinctive characteristic of this building that should not be lost.
6. From an economic standpoint, it is substantially more expensive to replace original wood windows than to repair the few needing repair. It is also likely that owner will remove perfectly good windows with the bad. And repair is rather simple in the hands of a qualified carpenter.
7. **Maintaining original the character of historic structure increases property values and stabilizes neighborhoods.** This has been true for historic districts throughout the country.
8. Recent board approvals allowing installation of alternative materials for roof, windows, etc. have caused a depreciation of Fort Pierce's historic character and set a terrible precedent.

We would hope that board's review, on Monday, of 618 N. 2nd application will result in a halt of recent, almost knee-jerk, approvals of detrimental proposals that have diminished the significance and impact of historic property designation in Fort Pierce. Quite frankly, if proposals like that presented by the application in question continue to be approved by the board, it raises legitimate question as to whether it is working in contradiction of it mandate and whether it too should go the way of the code enforcement board, returning decisions regarding preservation of historic properties to knowledgeable staff.

Warm regards,

Michael Mcleod & Cathy Wassylenko