## SECTION 5

## Transcript of the February 6, 2023 Landmark Commission Hearing 208 Landis Street CA223-182(RD)

CERTIFICATE
I HEREBY CERTIFY that this transcript is a true record of the content on the file provided to me to the best of my ability.

## Mawreen Cunningham Brzychei

 Dated: March 25, 2023```
(The foregoing certification of this transcript does
not apply to any reproduction of the same by any
means, unless under the direct control and/or
    supervision of the certifying reporter.)
```

IN RE:
208 LANDIS STREET

## AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION OF THE LANDMARK MEETING OF CITY OF DALLAS - OFFICE OE HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TRANSCRIBED BY MAUREEN C. BRZYCKI, COURT REPORTER

```
TRANSCRIPTIONIST DISCLAIMER: Speaker
identifications contained herein have been done to
the best of my ability. Misidentification of
speakers may occur due to things beyond my control,
e.g., similar voice tones, poor audio quality,
overspeaking, overlapping room noises, etc.
```

```
Magna Legal Services
    866-624-6221
www.MagnaLS.com
```

COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: And we'll move onto D5.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Dr. Rhonda Dunn, presenting on behalf of City Staff, Discussion Item D5. The property is located -- it's a vacant lot. The property is located at 208 Landis Street in the loth Street neighborhood, Historic District.

The case number is CA223-182RD. The staff recommendation is as follows: That the request for a certificate digit of appropriateness to construct new primary residential building on a vacant lot be approved in accordance with drawings and specifications dated 2/6/2023 with the following conditions: That roof shingles be asphalt composition shingles, that exterior siding be wood, horizontal lap siding, that skirting material be impervious to moisture or rot, windows be all wood framed, or all aluminum framed, not clad with light configuration of light over
one, or one over one, that exterior doors be craftsman style with a minimum of six lights, that front yard setback be within five percent of the average setback for the block face, that top of foundation be a minimum of 18 inches above grade, and that depth of front porch be a minimum of six feet behind porch columns. Implementation of the recommended conditions would allow for work to be consistent with preservation criteria sections $B$ and $C$, under new construction and additions. The standards and city codes, Section 51A-4.501, subdivision GC, Romanette II for noncontributing structures, and the secretary of interior's guidelines for setting district and neighborhood. Also this was written after the first iteration. The contractor has turned in at least two more. So I have the note that says: After the task force meeting, the applicant submitted
revised plans illustrating horizontal wood lap siding, a gabled roof, front porch, and 18 inch above grade foundation slab. He also later presented all wood windows, one over one.

COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: Thank you.
It's complicated.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Yes, it's complicated.

COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: Do any
commissioners have any questions of the staff? There's no incentive to speak on that. But of course, if we'd like to discuss the complexity of this particular application, what we should really do is make a motion first. And then discuss the motion. We can always vote the motion down if we change our minds.

MALE COMMISSIONER: I have one question for staff.

COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: Commission Renouds (ph)?

MALE COMMISSIONER: One of the other conditions that you mentioned was there was six feet clearance behind the front column on the porch.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Correct.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Is that now? From what I saw before it was to the front, not to the back.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: To the front?
MALE COMMISSIONER: It was to the front of the column rather than to the back of the column, so six foot of clear space.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Oh, okay. It should -- well, what we have is their latest iteration. So it sounds like what you're saying to me is I need to go back to them again and make sure they cleared that six feet behind those columns? Okay.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
Before -- I do have a motion, but do we have the addresses to look at? DR. RHONDA DUNN: Yes. Hold on.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
(Inaudible) just for you,
Commissioner (inaudible).
MALE COMMISSIONER: Well, I'm sorry to hear that.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: 1107 East 11th
Street.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
It looks -- that image is
stretched horizontally. I don't know if we can see it without the stretching.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: We can, we can.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Because it does
affect if way we understand the proportions of the porch, which is what we want to look at. Pretty much. Yeah.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: All right. So do you want me to -- we don't have it (inaudible) answer your first question for that, so do you want me to go back --

MALE COMMISSIONER: I have image on Clicker on your account. I have it

1
actually up on my screen.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
Can you share?
MALE COMMISSIONER: I don't know if
I can. However, I can share the address. If I text you the address -well, no. Let's see. If I send you the address in email? No, I don't have your email. If I read you the address --

DR. RHONDA DUNN: I will try.
MALE COMMISSIONER: The address
is -- it is short, but it is www --
https://www.clicker.com/photos/cityofdal
laspeservation/ -- and then there's a number.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay. (Inaudible).

MALE COMMISSIONER: I know, I know.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Clicker.com
(inaudible).
MALE COMMISSIONER: Slash.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Slash. Okay.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Photos/slash/city ofdallaspreservation, all one word, all
one -- you know, well, that's obvious.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Mm-hm.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Slash -- are we
ready for a series of numbers?
DR. RHONDA DUNN: I'll try.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. 29.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: 29.
MALE COMMISSIONER: 79.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: 79.
MALE COMMISSIONER: 9047.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: 47.
MALE COMMISSIONER: 541.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: 541.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Slash.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
We're trying.

MALE COMMISSIONER: I could.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
MALE COMMISSIONER: I'll do whatever helps. I didn't know if I was free to move about the cabin.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Now it says you need to sign up. I don't have a Clicker account.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Oh, gosh. I don't think I did either. I accessed this through your City of Dallas page. That's how I got to it. It's up on my screen now. I mean, (inaudible). You're asking me to be technical.

Okay. Okay. Oh, gosh. This
is not how this is supposed to go.
Okay. Wait. Let's see if it
will let me download. Okay. There it okay. Premium. Open file. Okay. You know what, it's probably saved, but I'm going to -- oh, yeah. No, I have to find it on my computer, right?

Yep. Okay. Go ahead. What do
you do? Oh, that's you are. Okay.
Excellent. Okay I'll just put the address in there (inaudible) Dallas. It should be here. Where should we save the (inaudible). Wait. Oh, okay. That's weird. It did it by itself. Okay. I think. Oh, no. Oh, no maybe it's at a data (inaudible) overhead. That's probably -- that's what it was.

Okay.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible). Okay. What's the file name?

MALE COMMISSIONER: The file is 1107
(Inaudible).
DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible). It
just -- it says (inaudible).
MALE COMMISSIONER: (Inaudible).
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
MALE COMMISSIONER: 1107
(inaudible). Do you see it?
DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible).
MALE COMMISSIONER: Can I ask a
question while we're waiting?
MALE COMMISSIONER: Sure.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Do you feel comfortable and confident that your concerns can be addressed today and can be revised without us seeing it or does this need to come back?

MALE COMMISSIONER: It's going to need to come back.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
It's going to have to come
back.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
I think that the screen is
stretching it.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay. Yeah. This
is what $I$-- oh, no, no. Okay.
MALE COMMISSIONER: It looks less
stretched. Yeah, it does. It does.
Okay. Yeah. It is stretched. I have
what it should look like on my -- oh, yeah, that one looks right. That
(inaudible) screen over there, that is how it should look. Okay. The other
one I wanted to look at -- I guess we
can look at after this is the
(inaudible), 1220 North Street.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
That one (inaudible). That's
what came up for 1220 North street. Is
that what you intended?
MALE COMMISSIONER: (Inaudible).
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Yeah. 1220 North

1
2
3
4
5

Street. That's what came up.
MALE COMMISSIONER: I'm not seeing
any --
DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible).
MALE COMMISSIONER: Yes.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: No, no.
(Inaudible). Okay. Let's see. I guess
it only shows one picture on my screen,
and it's up.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Let's go back to
the one (inaudible).
MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
(Inaudible). I may have questions, but you want me to just make a motion?

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Yeah.
(Inaudible).
MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Sure. Sure.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Okay.
In the matter of discussion
item number 5, 208 -- let's see. C8

223-182RD, otherwise known as 208 Landis
Street in the Tenth Street neighborhood
Historic District, I move that we deny with a finding fact that the proposed work is not compatible with the historic overlaying district.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Second.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Now we get to --

COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: Did you mean
straight denial?
MALE COMMISSIONER: Deny without
prejudice.
COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: Yeah. We'll
have to have them come back.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Yes. Deny
without prejudice.
COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: Okay.
Thank you for your second,
Mr. Rothenburg.
So now we're ready for
discussion of this perhaps using this
picture we now have.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Yeah.
And I'll -- I'll just lead up
really quickly to say that everyone who has voiced appreciation for this design is on the mark. It's incredibly rare that something comes to us this appropriately massed and configured and it's got so much going for it, but it is not quite there.

Now, of course, I have a question since we're in discussion. But why was the tasking force recommendation about the grading of the property not addressed in the staff recommendation? There were two things that task force addressed. One was the use of concrete piers, and the other one was the restoration of the original grade to the property to match the grade on the lots on either side. DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
I think part of what our
discussion was, and what this -- what Mr. Johnson's concern was, was in terms of -- of -- well, we basically talked
about the foundation. Because I was concerned -- because he felt as if he was going to do a concrete on slab foundation.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Right.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: And so that's why
I came back and said, no we cannot have a concrete on slab.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Wait. I'm a
little confused. You're saying concrete
on slab. But you mean concrete on
grade.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Well, yes.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
Because --

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Concrete on grade.
I'm sorry. In other words,
it's just going to be the 4 -inches.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Right.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: On top of a mound of dirt.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay.
But we're still seeing, however, a slab foundation, even though

1

2
it's a slab foundation supported on piers with kind of -- looks like with kind of a waffle slab, which I'll get to later. But since we have this one up on the screen.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
This house on -- since we're trying to establish compatibility and the massing on the proposal is great and the configuration on the porch is pretty good, but where it could use a lot of improvement is in the detailing. DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.

MALE COMMISSIONER: And this house
is already one that can go into the
direction of a craftsman's house, and the craftsman that you see there that we lost, it was demolished in December 2018, which is really tragic because it really was one of our finest craftsman's houses and had the greatest historic integrity. All those windows are boarded up, but when you look on the other side, they're in tact. So it was

1 2 3 4
really a great loss for the district. And you can see that this really thorough going craftsman house has the brackets, which are absent on the applicant's proposal. But really should be present if we're going to treat this as a craftsman house, and it's so far in that direction, we really should. This is not an in-between kind of house. It is a craftsman's house, but it lost the brackets. And for those brackets to be in proper relation with the columns, they're really going to need to provide a sided beam above the columns.

See can see how all of those columns, they don't just go right up to the roof eve, or just a neuro facia board or something. There's actually a sided beam that gives us room to position the brackets over the columns, so that we understand, support, and weightbearing being transferred to the columns. The other thing that -- if you look at where the columns, the brackets and the eves all come together, you see that the eves on the applicants proposal are really too short. DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.

MALE COMMISSIONER: You know, those -- those aren't record tales, they're record stubs. And we got to get away from that look, and you can see how the eve is stretched. This example we lost on the 1107 site has a proportional grace because all of the -- those three elements, the bracket, the supporting column and the eve come together in kind of an uncrowded harmony where each one gets a chance to express itself. And that sided beam that is supported by the columns is something that we read the extended rafter tails against. So you don't have the brackets that are pushed out unnaturally toward the edge of the rafters or that's uncomfortably interior where it looks like there's too much of the rafter (inaudible) off of the beam.

The other thing that is missing on the applicant; s proposal that you see clearly on 1107 East l1th is a very defined wide barge board, which is that -- it's actually a piece of facia, or it could be supported. But it's that final expression, exterior expression of the rafters that is supported by the brackets. And generally on a design like this, the tips of the brackets, the horizontal projections of brackets will pierce through the barge board and you'll see them expressed. And often they'd be tampered or cut in a pyramid pattern. So you see it expressed on the outside of the barge board.
Moving down the column, the applicant did provide us with a two-part column. But instead of a cap that he could replicate in a wind wall below the square brick column, he put a grow of --like a -- I guess you call it a (inaudible) course. It's really an end course of brick. Much better to go with
a concrete cap like you see or a capstone or a stone cap like you see in this illustration.

So to just wrap up on that, I mean, what he's got -- and then there's like at the base of the flared column, there's a weird kind of molding that I can't tell what it's doing, but we really need to see that detail. DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Perhaps put on a larger scale, so we can see what's really going on there. Because that is what greets the visitor. That is the most appealing engaging element of the the structure. And it may be necessary to widen the steps and perhaps introduce a brick -- I guess you call it -- like a half column that doesn't go all the way up to support the roof. It's just apt just for the purpose of finishing the step with a wind wall on either side and having it die comfortably into a brick column.

So $I$ think what we're saying is if this applicant were to reference this particular example in working through all the details, you'd have a really exemplary addition to the 10th Street District.

Now, if we can go to the other one that will address the issue of the grade, the contours.

And this example, by the way, is probably about six lots down, just like not even a block away from the applicant's. So it's highly --it's local even within the district. Let's see --

DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible).
MALE COMMISSIONER: Are we in
Google's preview, or are we --
DR. RHONDA DUNN: No. I
(inaudible).
MALE COMMISSIONER: (inaudible).
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Yeah.
MALE COMMISSIONER: Because I don't know if (inaudible) anymore.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: (Inaudible).
EEMALE COMMISSIONER: I would advise that the members of the commission do that on Google Streets. It really should come from staff so members of the public can also see what they're basing their decision off of that.

MALE COMMISSIONER: That we jumped into Google Street view?

FEMALE COMMISSIONER: That you not. Correct.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. Okay. That's it. Okay.

MALE COMMISSIONER: I have a basic question.

Is the staff taking copious
notes? I just want to make sure that what you're saying gets to the applicant.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Staff is attempting to take copious notes, but also there will be a recording.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. A recording.

I just want to make sure -this is very important. I just want to make sure there is nothing lost in the translation.

MALE COMMISSIONER: Right right.
And while we wait for this to come up, I also want to add there was some reference made -- I think it got corrected in the applicant's proposal, but I just want to be clear on aluminum windows on loth Street, which are only approved for storm windows and storm doors.

You can use aluminum window on a storm window or a storm door. And then it must be painted. It cannot be a --

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Mill finish?
MALE COMMISSIONER: Mill finish. Thank you. Cannot be a mill finish.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: It is not coming up --

MALE COMMISSIONER: Oh. That is so unfortunate because
this is one of the best illustrations of the point I'm trying to make, which is about how loth Street houses meet the ground. And they meet the ground as they find it. And this particular house is only about half -- it's only two lots away from the lot under discussion, from the applicant's lot. So although it faces North Street, the (inaudible) of North Street is showing us is the grade of that lot in elevation or like -almost like -- oh, there we go. Perfect. Perfect. And can we see the bottom where the staircase comes down to meet North Street because it shows how -- I mean, there is a -- there is a procession that is created to get to this house because this house is (inaudible) with the grade. And this is what makes loth Street a -- really a district like no other. The ad hoc responses to things like grade level as -- or like on the lot size, whatever, as they are found. So okay. We can't
see it all at once. But $I$ hope y'all are getting the idea of how -- and imagine when you see the grades sloping from the right side of the picture to the left side of the picture, you are seeing in side view, the way that this lot slopes. It starts out at the side -- the right hand elevation, and it slopes down and eventually, you know the land gets all the way to the street.
So I also -- while we're
looking at this, you can see the skirt on the left hand side is deep enough to stand in -- to stand up in. And now, you might say, well, but it's not as severely sloped on the applicant's lot as it is on this where you actually got slopes in two directions. But the problem is when you say, well, we're going to allow slabs, then you have a condition where the applicant has an incentive to flatten out the lot before the process starts. In other words, and this is what apparently happened here is

Legal Services
that there was unauthorized work done to regrade the lot. So they can say, well, we have a flat lot. But as you can see, the land on this lot is nowhere near flat. So it's really important that they use a post foundation, which is more than 95 percent of the houses in loth street. There's just a few from the very late twenties that have a pier and (inaudible) foundation. And really we shouldn't say pier and (inaudible) because that always implies a concrete perimeter skirt beam -- like a concrete perimeter beam. And these houses, you can see, they do not have -- even though this applicant who did an exemplary job on this house just a couple of years ago, it's really a -- almost a model of how you should do a 10 th street house. There was -- you can see like at the left hand side where the -- the crawl space is a standup space basically. And behind that corrugated foundation skirt, there used to be a

1 2

```
cedar beam -- a cedar pier rather -- a cedar post. And the cedar post was taken out, and it was replaced by a concrete post. And that's fine. I think the cedar post really ought to suffice, but that is an appropriate approach to a loth street foundation. And that's exactly what this applicant did. He kept a post foundation, but he just substituted a concrete post and since these posts are almost never open and visible, although they were sometimes, you'll see the notation open underneath on a lot of these 10 th street houses that have this much standup space under the first floor. It -- the concrete post is the way to go. DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay. So --
MALE COMMISSIONER: That keeps
people from cheating, basically and trying to do their regrading before they ever present something to you.
DR. RHONDA DUNN: Okay.
```

MALE COMMISSIONER: Which is what this guy did. We can see it on -- even on the photograph we referenced during the briefing. We can see he regraded the lot with a considerable amount of material to make it flat and loth Street is one of the hilliest districts that we have, even though Wheatley Place and loth Street have a lot of similarities, Wheatley Place (inaudible) historic period begins in 1960 when it was (inaudible) by Alex Camp, and it's very nearly flat. loth Street goes back to 1888 when the first (inaudible) lots were (inaudible) by W.J. Veterton, and even those were incredibly sloped. Those are ones in front of the cemetery, and I think we all know what the grade changes are like there. So anyway, I thank you all.
I'm ready for it to come to a
vote. But this is just such a great opportunity to address these things about loth Street that are often

people are keeping the ground reasonably covered, you know, with (inaudible) and stuff, the erosion is really going to be minimal. And we -- in older houses that -- like this one, that they have largely retained their dimensional stability indicating there's been very little erosion that has changed the height of those piers. MALE COMMISSIONER: One other observation I'd like to add and the fact they've come back with a bunch of (inaudible) on that existing site is that that's going to subside because that's only been there a few months compared to years of what's underneath it. Yeah. You get rid of it? MALE COMMISSIONER: You take it off. MALE COMMISSIONER: Yeah. MALE COMMISSIONER: Okay. I mean, during the permit process, I'm presuming the city is going to acquire a erosion control plan, and also a grading plan, and drainage plan,
and all those things. Another we should take into consideration is a cross line drainage. (Inaudible).

COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: All right.
Does anybody else have any
comments on this?
All right. Then let's call for
a vote. All those in favor of this
motion, please say aye.
MULTIPLE VOICES: Aye.
COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: Aye.
Any opposed? Hearing none, I
assume we are unanimous, and so staff
will communicate with the applicant about what has occurred here. Let them know about their ability to continue. It's a potentially great project. Do mention that to them. It's just not quite there yet.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: I will mention that it's a potentially great project.

COMMISSIONER HINAJOSA: They got lots of the comments -- compliments.

DR. RHONDA DUNN: Yes. Yes, it did.


