

**STAFF REPORT 10-9-2019 MEETING**  
**APPLICATION NUMBER 19-6495**  
**ADDRESS: 4440 E. CANFIELD**  
**HISTORIC DISTRICT: SWEETEST HEART OF MARY**  
**APPLICANT: TJ GARRETT**  
**DATE OF COMPLETE APPLICATION: 8/30/2019**  
**DATE OF STAFF SITE VISIT: 10/1/2019**

**PREPARED BY: J. ROSS**

**SCOPE: INSTALL NEW CELLPHONE EQUIPMENT/VENTS AT TOWER**

### **EXISTING CONDITIONS**

As per the Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board:

Sweetest Heart of Mary is a typical cruciform plan church built of painted red brick with stone trim and a patterned slate roof. The main west facade is distinguished by a stone base topped by a quatrefoil frieze over the main portal and twin buttressed towers surmounted by octagonal spires. Sweetest Heart's 217 spires house three large bells, cast in St. Louis in 1889 to be placed in the bell tower of the school. A smaller spire marks the intersection of the nave with the transept. Several motifs unify the composition of the edifice: alternating patterns of pinnacles and decorated gables define the bases of the main spires; the gable ornamentation, consisting primarily of blind serrated lancets, is repeated on the four larger gables which mark the ends of the nave and transepts: the pointed gable shape is echoed not only on the spires and the roof, but also on the side buttressing and above all of the portals; lancet windows fenestrate the towers, the gables, and the main three-portal facade; and circles dominate the tracery of the tower windows and the smaller windows of the north and south facades. Gables, pinnacled buttresses, and angled side entrances provide the nave facades with a multiplicity of line and form. Much of this detailing derives from northern European precedents; the combination a French front and a German nave reflects the late Victorian propensity towards the use of a multiplicity of forms.

### **4440 E. Canfield, current conditions**







**The lower pane of this window will be removed and replaced with new louvers**

### **PROPOSAL**

The project involves the installation of new cellphone equipment within the building's southwest tower. The majority of the work associated with this project will be undertaken within the building's interior space/within the portion of the building which is not covered under the building's interior designation. However, one element of the project involves the replacement of one exterior window. Specifically, the exterior work item associated with this project includes the following:

- At the north elevation, second story window at the tower, remove the lower light from the sash in install. replaced with (2) 13"x22" intake and exhaust louvers. Louver color to match beige stonework (Greenheck manufacturer, color: sierra tan/ color code: GF118)

### **STAFF OBSERVATIONS AND RESEARCH**

- The air exhaust and intake vents are proposed for installation are necessary in order to maintain proper air flow and temperature control for the new equipment
- The window pane proposed for replacement is an opaque glass and is likely not original/historic age
- It is staff's opinion that the new louvers will be minimally visible and will not detract from the building's historic appearance

### **ISSUES**

- None

### **RECOMMENDATION**

As noted above, it is HDC staff's opinion that the new louvers will be minimally visible and will not detract from the building's historic appearance. HDC staff therefore recommends that the Commission issue a Certificate of Appropriateness for the work as proposed because it meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, standard #9) *New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction*

*shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be differentiated from the old and shall be compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to protect the historic integrity of the property and its environment.*